THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

August 18th—24th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 33

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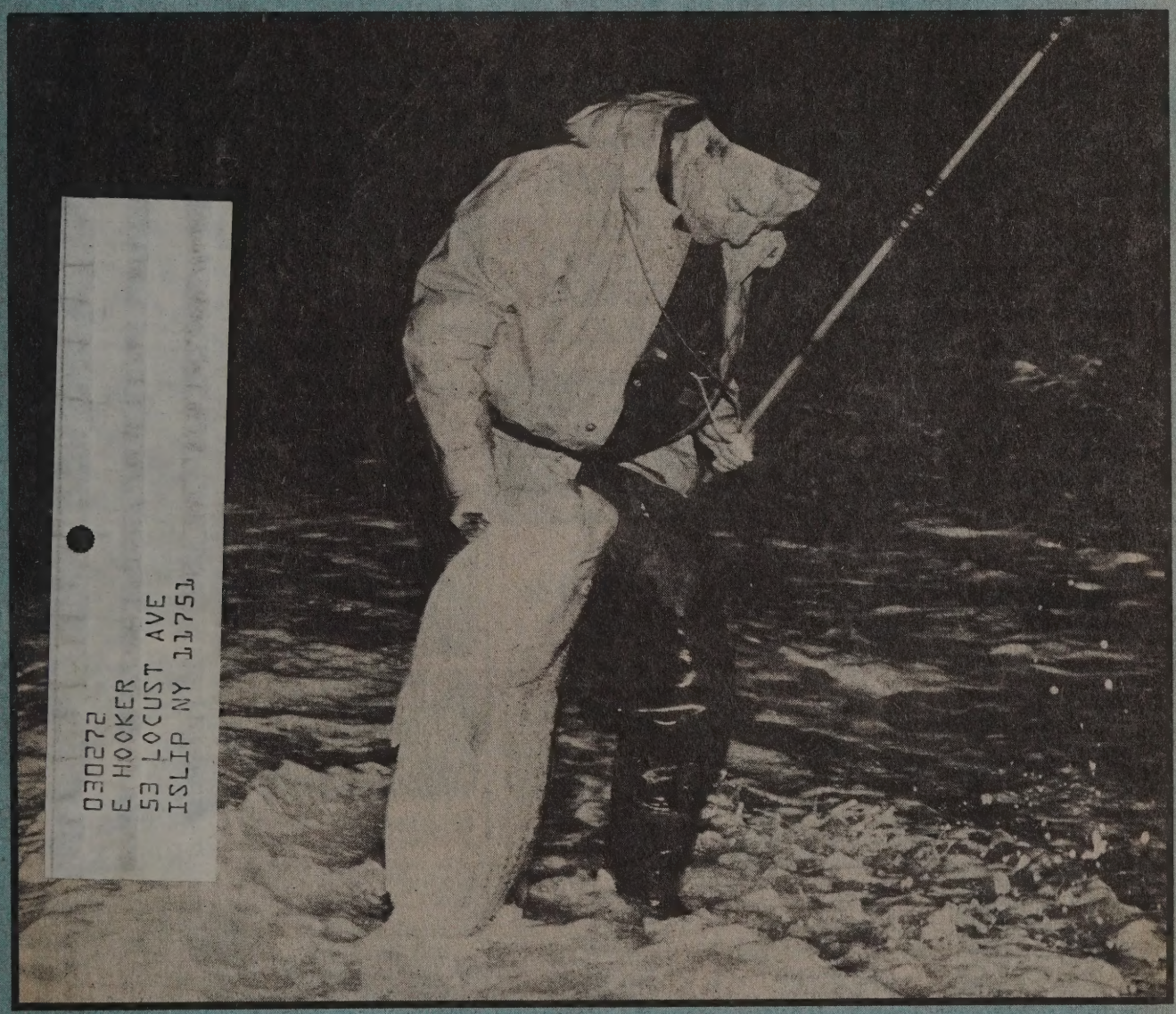

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 33 August 18th, 1983

FEATURES:

TWILIGHT WEAKIES
by John Wilkinson 12

WORK A WRECK FOR DOORMATS
by Matt Ahern 14

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ
by Fred Guardineer 16

FORT POND'S NEW KID ON THE BLOCK
by Carl Buxbaum 17

GATHER ROUND THE OB BUOY
by Don Avondolio 20

DOUBLE YOUR FUN IN THE SURF
by Herb Buch 22

EAST END SLAMMERS
by Capt. Bill Ricca 24

WHEREFORE ART THOU, BLUE CLAW
by Jim Capossela 26

SMALL BOAT TUNA
by Pete Barrett 28

DEPARTMENTS:

EDITORIAL 4
PASS IT ON 6
FISHING REPORTS 31
TIDE TABLES 49
SOLUNAR TABLES 49
FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED 56

ABOUT THE COVER:

Citing "strong biological reasons," New York Governor Mario Cuomo signed the Striped Bass Management Bill into law last Monday. The protection afforded the striper through this legislation should insure a healthy and viable fishery in the years to come. See the editorial on page 4. Photo by Frank Daignault.

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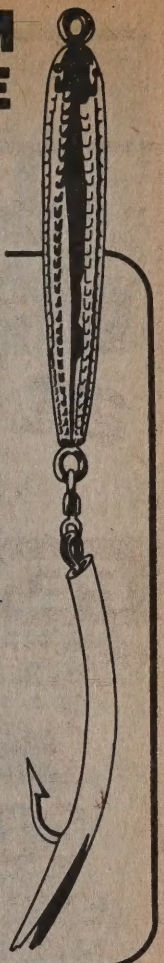

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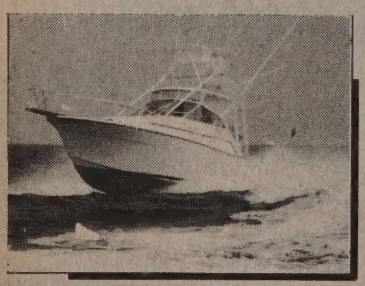

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EDITORIAL

GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS STRIPER BILL INTO LAW

Late Monday, August 8, 1983, Governor Mario Cuomo signed the striped bass management legislation into law. The Governor cited strong biological reasons for signing the legislation. "The majority of scientists and fisheries managers believe that this management measure is the simplest and most effective way to provide protection for striped bass with the least negative effect on its associated fisheries. As I am concerned with the long-range preservation of the striped bass fishing industry in New York, I am enacting it into law." In a press release issued on August 9th, the Governor pointed out that a similar piece of legislation was vetoed in 1978 in anticipation of recommendations from the State-Federal Striped Bass Project. He noted the high quality of "expert scientific work" that has been done on the striped bass resource and pointed towards his concern for "the undisputed and precipitous decline of striped bass landings over the last decade." The Governor noted that a 24 inch size limit will allow striped bass to spawn at least once. The statement also indicated that a mediocre 1982 year class, the only one of any substance in recent years, would be otherwise overwhelmed by a "tidal wave" of fishing pressure. The Governor's message did express concern for the potential reduced commercial harvests. The reduction would amount to about $600 per person, according to DEC figures, he said. Therefore, the Governor announced the establishment of a special task force to assess this potential impact and make recommendations on how to assist the commercial fishermen overcome this potential $600 loss of income.

Although the legislation was hotly contested during the spring and summer months of this year in Albany, it was clear from the outset that passage of meaningful management legislation in New York State was an essential and timely element in the three-year-long State-Federal effort under the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council jurisdiction.

New York is a key state in the development of coastal management of striped bass. There are several reasons for our crucial role. First, we have both an intense recreational and commercial fishery for striped bass. Some states lack either a substantial recreational or commercial fishery for a variety of legislative and/or traditional reasons. The fact that both recreational resource users and commercial fishermen depend upon the species has resulted in considerable disagreement about how to best manage the species. In general, the commercial fishermen were and are against management. They have repeatedly claimed that the species does not need management. They have been supported by several old and hard line "dinosaurs" in marine resource management. The old guard still clings to the view that management is not necessary because the fish has the capacity to produce dominant year classes from a relatively small brood stock. Clearly, the people who have taken this position do not understand fishery management nor do they appreciate the social and economic realities of life in the 20th century. Management cannot change the natural fish cycles nor can it force species to spawn in a more successful way. What management can do is structure harvests and mortality so that dominant year classes last longer and have a maximum impact on both the recreational and commercial industries. Size limits and closed seasons help conserve what remains of the brood stock during lean periods so as to maximize the opportunity for spawning success in any one year. Reducing mortality has merit both when the population is large and when it is small. We have no way of knowing when the next successful spawning in the Chesapeake will occur or if it will ever occur. Biologists are increasingly concerned about the possible damaging effects of chlorine, pesticides, and toxic chemical pollution in the bay on fish and shellfish stocks. Efforts are under way to clean up the pollution mess and if we are reasonably successful then perhaps the need to build hatcheries up and down the coast can be avoided because natural spawning will preclude the need for artificial supplementation.

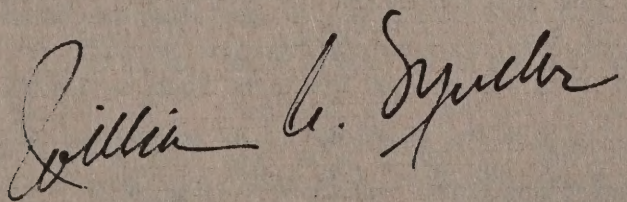
Second, New York State commercial harvest methods are quite diverse. Some harvest methods are termed "clean," while others are referred to as "dirty." A "dirty" method is one where the fish are killed and thus undersized fish cannot be released. Gill netting and haul seining are examples of "dirty" harvest methods. "Clean" methods, conversely, are those that do not kill the

fish and thus small fish and undesirable species can be released. Traps and pound nets represent such methods of harvest. The mixed commercial methodologies were a problem because some folks argued that there would be a waste in the fishery. Well, a little aside from the point here, we believe the day will come when fishing methods will be cleaned up to avoid this problem. One positive step in that direction has been taken by this management plan. It is a modest step in the right direction that has been tempered by economic and political reality, yet the spring and winter closed season period should help to limit the harvest and death of an undersized bass because the smaller fish tend to migrate north first and south last. Of course, the migration pattern is not perfectly symmetrical, but for the most part, it works that way and the closed season should help reduce fishing mortality on immature fish.

The signing of this legislation into law was a courageous step for the Governor against the backdrop of inaccurate and heart-wrenching propaganda from the commercial sector. This propaganda found its way into the newspapers and onto network television as well. We have strong evidence that the Governor's staff, under specific direction from the Governor, researched the facts careully and thoroughly. It is a credit to his dedication that he was not swayed by the propaganda, the draping of the American flag around men, women, children, and dories, and the inaccurate information that was thrown about with regularity. Instead, he stayed close to the facts and the facts showed clearly that the legislation was needed and that it was soundly written.

Yet all that is history. The bill is now law. What is important now is that the legislation has the potential to benefit both the recreational and commercial industries. True, we'll need a little help from Mother Nature, but if she gives us a break we'll all be a lot better off because of this legislation. For one thing, we believe that we will witness other states falling into line and adopting the recommendations of the State-Federal project participants. Many states have already acted, yet others have waited to see what New York would do. Now that we have taken positive action the pressure on those states to participate will be incredible. For another, the management plan should help to prevent the boom and bust fishing experiences of the past and present. Remember, the largest year class of the century was the 1970 year class, and yet after about a half dozen years, so many specimens of that year class were harvested that fishing declined precipitously. The participation in coastal management of the striped bass should mean that any future dominant year classes will last longer. This will benefit the commercial fishermen as well as the recreational fishermen. Prices as well as harvests will be more stable.

We both need this legislation. Now that it's over, let's admit the truth: we all need this legislation. Even more important the fish needs this legislation. We can be proud that for the most part it was recreational fishermen who led this fight in New York State. It took a lot of hard work by a lot of hard-working and dedicated people to achieve this. And let us also point out an important fact before someone writes something they may regret. We know those who have been involved in this fight for many years. We know them as fishermen and as people. We know their motivation in this battle. With few exceptions they release every bass they catch and those few who keep a few of their bass do so for the table. Bass caught by these folks NEVER go to market. We know this via firsthand knowledge. Truly, those who have made this fight care about the fish. There have been no dollar signs involved. As it so happens, they have also been helping to secure a better future for those who harvest striped bass for sale. This is obvious, since a larger coastal stock will mean larger harvests. No one objects to that eventuality either. This was not a struggle to put an industry out of business; it was rather a struggle to protect and nurture at least part of our combined futures. Some had the vision to see this, while others had their vision blurred and clouded over by ignorance and years of national indifference. Thank goodness the vision of the Governor was clear and forthright.



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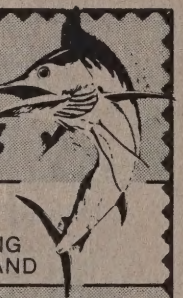

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NMFS AUTHORITY DELEGATED

Implementing a decision long urged by SWS, NOAA Administrator John V. Byrne has approved regulations delegating authority for approval or disapproval of fishery management plans to Regional Directors of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Such plans in the past had to find their way through the bureaucratic maze in Washington even after Regional Fishery Management Councils and the Regional Directors had agreed on the measures. The result: long delays and often petty nit-picking at the federal level while a fishery was being over-exploited. Regional Directors have a far greater knowledge of local conditions than those in Washington and the new procedures should help both fish and fishermen.

BOATING SAFETY

Bayside Flotilla 12-1 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be giving a Safe Boating Course starting September 14, 1983. The course will be held every Wednesday night from 8PM to 10PM at the World's Fair Marina in Flushing.

The course will cover basic skills and seamanship and the new Rules of the Road. On the first night, September 14, registration will start at 7:30PM. A nominal charge will be made to cover the cost of books and materials.

For information, contact: Lee Bonder, Public Ed. Officer, after 6PM, (212) 428-6813.

WINNERS OF MCA CHARITY SHARK TOURNAMENT

The Montauk Captains Association would like to congratulate the winners of our 4th Annual Charity Shark Tournament.

First prize of $3000 went to the Good As Gold for their 439 lb. tiger shark. Second prize of $2000 went to the Salty Dog for their 434 lb. mako and Third prize of $1000 went to the Sunrise for their 379 lb. tiger. Valuable prizes including marine electronics and fishing tackle were awarded to the captors of the next 11 largest sharks.

The sum of $6000 went to various charities. The Cancer Society, Ambulance Corps and the Montauk Girl Scouts were also big winners as were Robert Anderson and Gregory Verity of East Hampton High Schoo, who each won a $1000 scholarship to Suffolk Community College. A young researcher, Robert Medved, working on sandbar sharks was given a research grant from our proceed as was the N.Y. Sea Grant program to further their research into the economic impact of sport fishing on the East End of Long Island.

We would like to thank the press for their coverage in the Daily News, the Post, The Long Island Fisherman, the East Hampton Star and Newsday. A special thanks goes to Radio Station WLNG for live coverage throughout the event. We would like to thank the owners of Star Island Marina for once again allowing us to use their facilities to host the tournament and we would like to thank John Schebendach of Griffith Marine in Port Washington for our radio setup at Star Island and Artie Frey of AVA jigs for being our weighmaster.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MINI LECTURE AVAILABLE

If your boat club, church group, Scout troop or civic association is in need of a guest speaker, the Coast Guard Auxiliary may be the answer.

Flotilla 1-3 in Islip has many topics available for presentation and can tailor a lecture to meet the needs of your group. Talks, slides, movies and question/answer sessions are available on required equipment, rules of the road, the buoy system and just about any other topic relating to safe and enjoyable boating. The Coast Guard Auxiliary also has programs for the 7 to 9 year olds as well as a 10-16 year old program. If you could use this service or would like additional information, please contact Pete Natale, Flotilla 1-3 Public Affairs Officer at (516) 582-4574.

1983 REGS FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA ISSUED

Federal regulations effective June 17, 1983, set a 1,529 short ton quota for Atlantic bluefin tuna that can be caught by American fishermen during the 1983 fishing season.

The quota was established last November when the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas set new catch limits for the U.S., Japan and Canada. The U.S. quota is more than double the 1982 limit, and reflects a "reasonable number that will allow fisheries scientists to collect accurate stock monitoring information and will still keep the total annual harvest within a biologically sound range" according to Bill Gordon, head of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The new regulations cover every commercial and sport fishing method used to catch the valuable bluefin, including long-lining, purse seining, harpooning, handlining, and rod and reel angling, throughout the western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The regulations also allow for incidental capture of the tuna, and contain a provision for a 104 short ton reserve to allow for in-season adjustment of allocations, should it be necessary.

Because the rules governing the bluefin tuna fishery are so complex, the NMFS will mail a copy of the regulations to each of the more than

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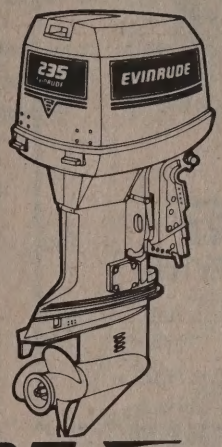

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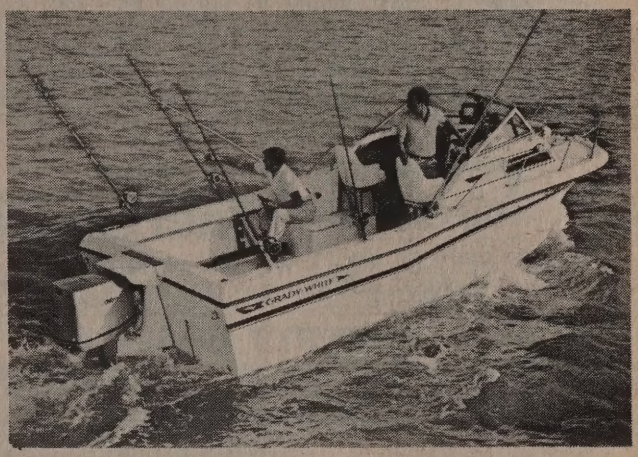

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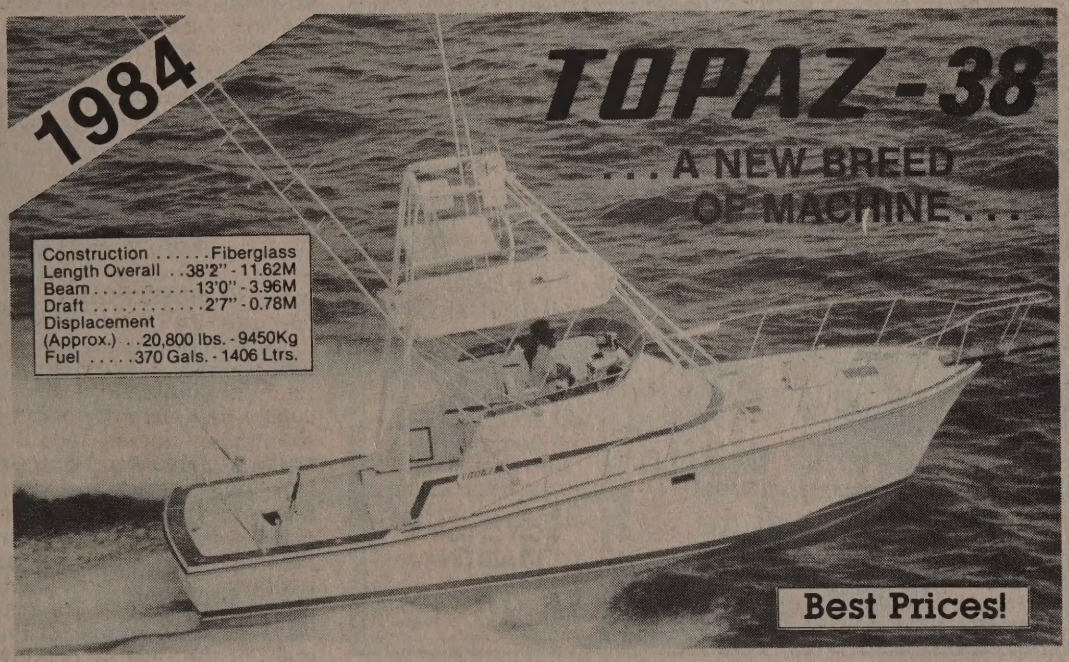
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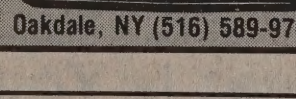

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10,500 permit holders from Maine to Texas. A copy of the regulations can be obtained from: Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Federal Building, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, MA 01930.

D/J REVISIONS NOTED

Legislation which might add more than $100 million to the Dingell/Johnson fund, which is underwritten by excise taxes on sport fishing tackle items and is then allocated to states for recreational fisheries management, has received a favorable report from the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The bill, HR 2163, would provide that yearly collections of the tax on motorboat fuels—roughly $85 million—be earmarked for programs that benefit recreational boaters and fishermen.

Up to $45 million of these tax receipts could be appropriated to states and the Coast Guard for recreational boating safety problems. The balance would be available for D/J purposes. In addition, several items of fishing tackle previously exempted from the excise tax would be added and present import duties on foreign-produced tackle and boats would be designated for D/J use.

This legislation is now before the House Ways and Means Committee and approval is expected. A final vote by both Senate and House may be anticipated by early autumn.

DOWNEY INTRODUCES FIRE ISLAND BILL

Rep. Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.) would like to see the Fire Island beach communities "get help enforcing local zoning regulations—regulations which prevent harmful development on the beach."

Downey recently introduced an amendment to the 1964 Fire Island National Seashore Act to "rationalize" land-use management and condemnation procedures on Fire Island.

"The purpose of the amendment," Downey said, "is to stop people from building illegally and to protect the national treasure of Fire Island. We want to put the power of the Department of the Interior behind the local authorities—we want to give the communities an effective mechanism for enforcement of their own local zoning standards."

Currently, any homeowner who receives a local variance for even innocuous construction or alteration receives a notice of potential condemnation from the National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior. Under Downey's amendment, minor alterations would not trigger any condemnation action, but construction which "does damage to the beach would be stopped once and for all with the support of the Department of the Interior," according to Downey.

Also, under the new amendment, properties which are found to be in gross violation of standards would be

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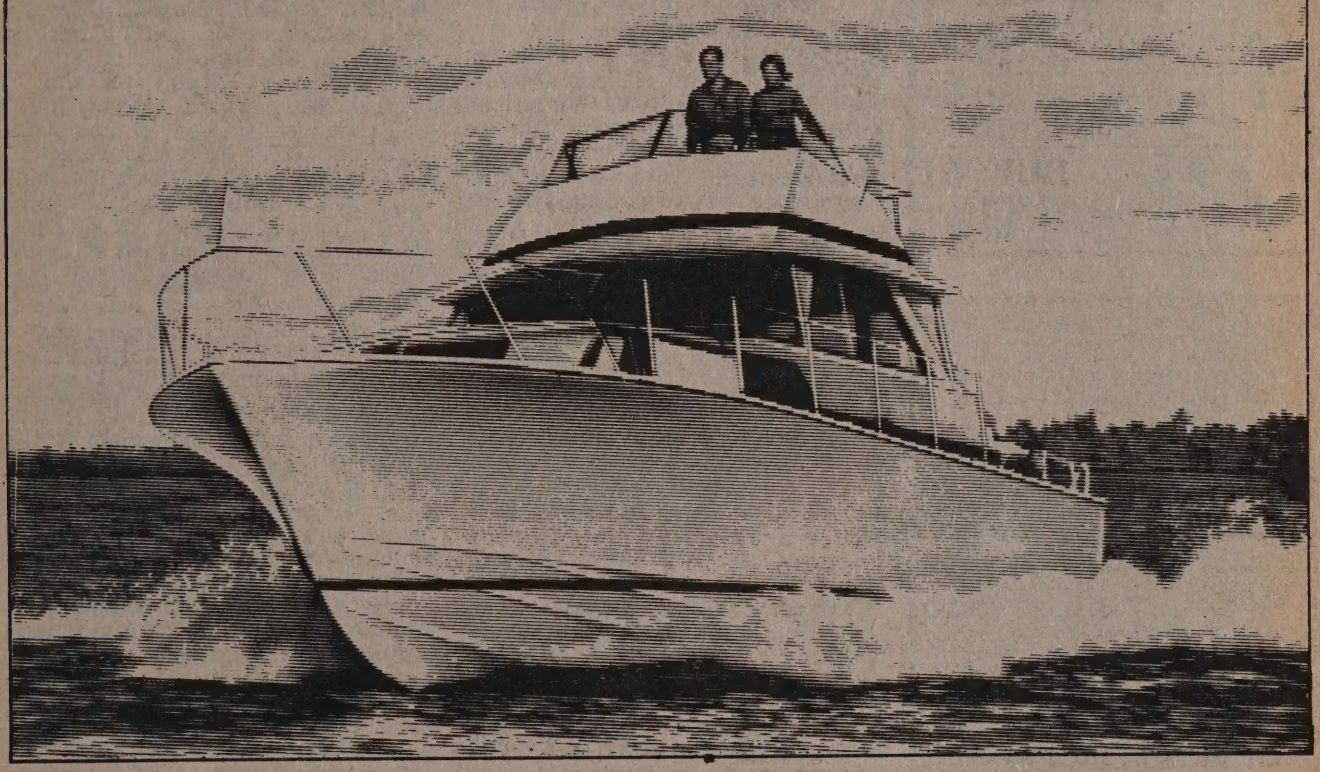

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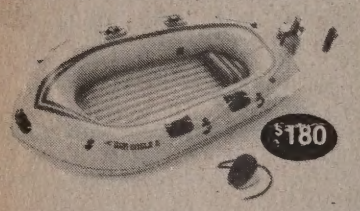

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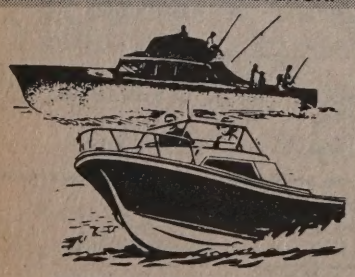

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condemned, brought within guidelines and sold—the proceeds from the sale to go towards future condemnations.

"This revolving fund provides the Park Service with a cost-effective method of protecting the beach," said Downey.

The legislation has the support of the Fire Island Association which represents 15 community associations on Fire Island and the villages of Ocean Beach and Saltaire. Identical legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator D'Amato and Senator Moynihan.

STRIPERS GENERATE $200 MILLION

A preliminary report on an economic study for the National Marine Fisheries Service reveals that striped bass sport and commercial fisheries from Maine through North Carolina in 1980 generated a direct and indirect contribution of more than $200 million in economic output for the coastal areas of the ten states involved and provided employment for more than 5,600 people. Since the decline in the striper stocks during the past decade, it was estimated that almost $220 million of economic activity and 7,000 jobs have been lost.

DU PONT "STREN" FISHING LINE OFFERS NEW FISHING FILMS

A new catalog of fishing films is now available from the DuPont Company, maker of "Stren" fishing line.

The catalog offers award-winning films about tarpon and striper fishing and the latest films from the B.A.S.S. and Bass'n Gal tournament circuits.

Featured in the library are several recent bass fishing films, including coverage of the 1981 and 1982 B.A.S.S. Masters Classics at Lake Montgomery, Alabama, and the 1981 and 1982 Bass'n Gal Classics at Lake Eufaula, Alabama, and Mt. Pleasant, Texas, respectively. The 1983 Classic films will be added to the library within a few months after those events are held later this year.

"Stren" fishing line is the official line of both the B.A.S.S. Masters Classic and the Bass'n Gal Classic.

The films are available for loan to fishing clubs, schools and other groups without charge. The DuPont Company asks only that the films be reserved early—with a first choice and an alternate date for showings—and that they be returned promptly.

Copies of the catalog with instructions on borrowing the films are available by writing "Stren" Films, DuPont Company, Room G-40070 Wilmington, DE 19898.

Frank Cogdell, head of the Stren fishing line business, suggests reserving the films now for fishing club winter programs.

"The winter season—when fishing activity declines—is a good time to devote fishing club programs to education, to learning how to be a better angler," said Cogdell. "We've put together a library of films that are intended to educate as well as entertain. We urge fishing club officers to consider building programs around them this year."

Several other films are available about bass fishing, as well as films on surf fishing for bluefish, the Arthur Smith King Mackerel Tournament, salmon, striper and tarpon fishing.

"The Striper's Odyssey" chronicles the movement of the striped bass from saltwater to freshwater. The award-winning film includes some dramatic eye-catching photography as well as tips on landing the striper. It features Spider Andresen, a prominent outdoor writer, and TV fishing personality Bill Dance.

"Parismina Tarpon Rancho," another recent award winning film, was shot just last year on the wild Parismina River in Costa Rica. It features Lee Sisson of the Bagley Bait Co., Chuck Roberts, an outdoor writer, and Sam Waltz of DuPont "Stren" seeking tarpon and snook in shark-infested coastal waters of the Costa Rican jungle.

MONTAUK SURFCASTERS ASSN. HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

The Montauk Surfcasters Association will hold its annual picnic for our members and their immediate families on Saturday, September 3, 1983, from 10 AM to 4:30 PM. Space has been reserved at Montauk Park South, which is located on Montauk Highway (Rt. 27) next to the Deep Hollow Horse Ranch.

The Association will supply hot dogs and hamburgers but due to our limited funds we suggest that each member bring their own salads, etc. We are asking for a reservation fee of $2.50 per adult and $1 per child (12 years and under).

Reservation fees are due before August 22nd so that we may plan our food expenditures accordingly.

CG AUXILIARY SCHEDULES BOATING COURSE FOR SEPT.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip will be presenting a Boating Skills and Seamanship class on Thursday evenings from 8 PM until 10 PM. The class will run from Sept. 22 until Dec. 15 at the East Islip High School located off Carleton Ave. on Richard Street in Islip Terrace. Boat handling, navigation, required equipment and rules of the road are some of the lessons that will be presented during the 12 week course.

This year many new requirements went into effect, along with the "new" buoy system of changing colors and lights. To take a course this fall means that you will be ready in the spring for an enjoyable and safe boating season. The course is free. The material fee for the text and homework books, which are yours to keep, is $12. To register and for additional information, call Pete Natele, Flotilla Public Education Officer at (516) 582-4574 after 5 PM.

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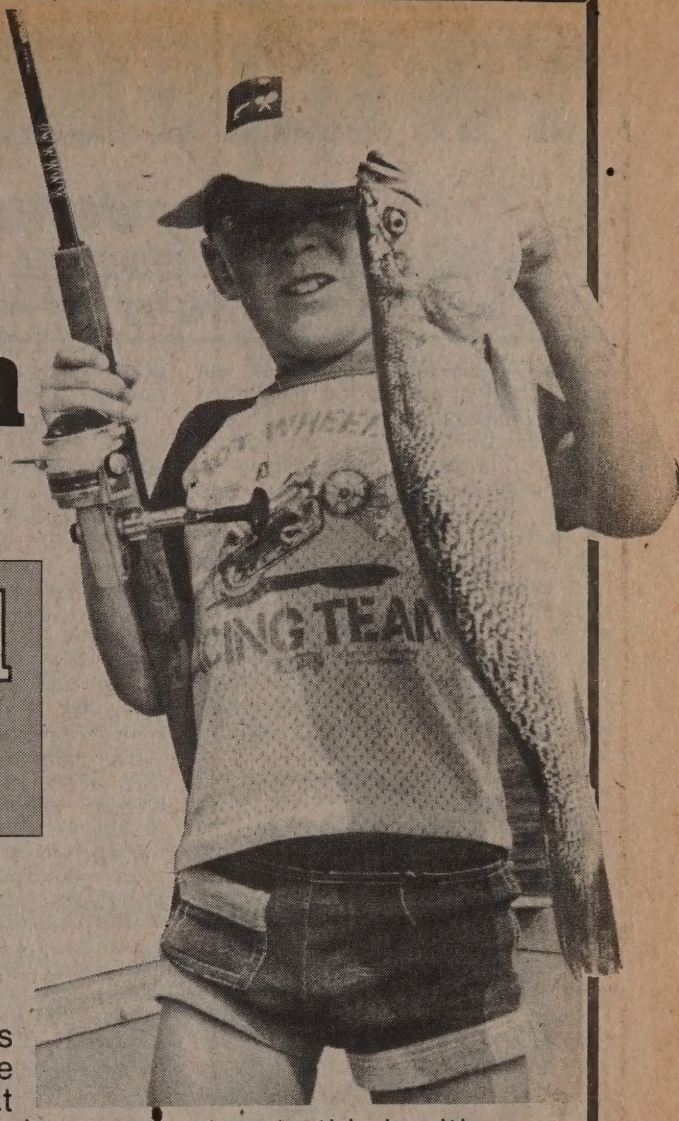

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It's a sad fact that many youngsters never get the opportunity to experience the joys that fishing can provide. We, here at **The Fisherman**, feel that the need to introduce youngsters to this healthy and wholesome sport has never been greater.

If you agree, and would like to join with us in making the **Send-A-Kid Fishing** program a success, won't you please send along a small donation to help us fund fishing trips for these boys and girls. A donation of $8.00 will cover the cost of a day's fishing for one youngster but any contribution at all will be greatly appreciated. How about everyone (individuals, fishing clubs, fishing related businesses and organizations, etc.) joining in and showing these kids what fishing, and fishermen, are all about. A listing of the names of all those who contribute to the program will appear in **The Fisherman** at the close of summer.

Yes, I would like to "Send-A-Kid Fishing" this summer.
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Make checks payable to: **"SEND-A-KID FISHING"** All donations should be sent to: P.O. Box 1994, Bridge Street, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963

TWILIGHT WEAKIES

by John Wilkinson

Look to the waning light in August and September for weakfish.

During August and September last year a fantastic situation developed off northern New Jersey and, to a lesser extent Rockaway, New York: 8 to 12 pound (and some as big as 15 lbs.) weakfish were resident and caught consistently. The specific grounds fished were "between the channels" of Sandy Hook and the Tin Can Grounds off Rockaway. These were strictly twilight fish caught from about 5 or 6PM until after dark (although action sometimes continued into the wee hours of the morning). Summarized here are the techniques we used to boat our share of twilight weakies.

First stop on these trips was at the Tackle Box in Hazlet where Mike LaViola provided the latest info. His instructions for finding fish on the Jersey side were easy: go out around Sandy Hook, up Sandy Hook Channel to the green experimental buoy (buoy #5), hang a left (northeast), go a few hundred yards off the channel, and start fishing!

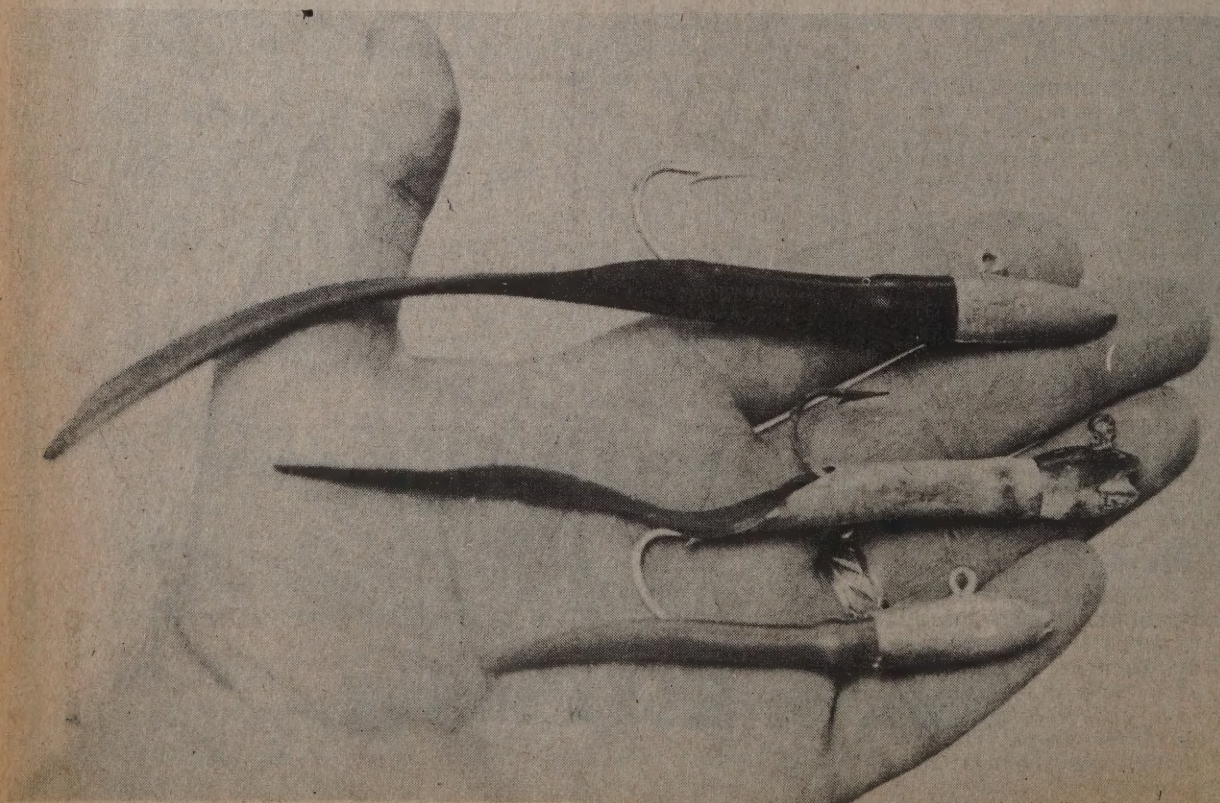
As to lures, the ones used for this fishing are simply bullet head jigs with different color surgical tubes attached. They come in several sizes and are called by a number of names: Tiger Tails, Nordic Eels, or Smilin' Jacks. All are fished plain with no squid, twister tail, or pork rind on them. The ones producing for us last year were the larger versions, about seven inches long, which are usually referred to as Nordic eels. LaViola usually had a good recommendation on the color working best at a particular time, although red seemed to be best overall with white and yellow kept on hand—just in case. The idea of carrying several colors underscores a feeling of mine which is that in fishing you have to be like a Boy Scout: always prepared. What worked yesterday may not work today, and always carry a variety of lures just to be sure. The cost of these lures is not that much when compared to the gas and fishing time involved.

Okay, back to our trek to the fishing grounds. Next stop was Atlantic Highlands' Municipal marina and fishing buddy Mike Eagan's 28 foot Luhrs—the Linda Marie. Although LaViola's directions were easy to follow, when rounding the Hook, there was no mistaking where to go. The word gets out fast when big weakfish are to be caught, and a fleet was sitting right on the location. This fleet consisted of boats from New Jersey and New York, and included private, charter, and party boats (doing twilight/magic hour trips).

We positioned ourselves on the updrift side of the fleet and began fishing. Our tackle ranged from light 10 pound spinning outfits up to 25 pound conventional gear. At least up to 25 lb. test, line size did not seem to make a difference.

What did make the difference was how the lure was worked. The lure should be let down to the bottom, and additional line let out to provide some scope. Next, is not to retrieve and work the lure, but to simply bounce it **gently** on the bottom. In fact, dead poles left in rod holders often do well because the gentle rocking of the boat will quite often provide just enough action.

When looking at the lure design, I feel the reason a weakfish hits it when worked as noted above can be explained. The line is not tied to the



Nordic Eels, Smilin' Jacks and Tiger Tails fool summer weakfish.

front of the leadhead, but rather on top of it. When bounced off the bottom, the tip hits the bottom and resembles a sand eel diving for cover (no self-respecting weakie would let a sand eel get away with that!). Since weakfish are on the bottom watching for sand eels burrowing in, this also underscores the need to keep your jig right on the bottom.

After a flurry of activity, the question is where to move to next. Although there might be some bird activity to help, the size of the fleet usually keeps the fish down and birds scattered. However, one thing I have noticed is that these fish always seem to move upcurrent of a concentration of boats. Another item of interest is that the best tide to fish is right around high tide or a few hours after it. If you fish ideal conditions where high tide is around 5 or 6PM, then the tide will be ebbing (water flowing out) during twilight fishing. Under these conditions, as soon as a flurry of action is over, we move a few hundred yards toward the Verrazano Bridge (northwest) from the fleet and get fishing before we're surrounded by other boats.

Although what I have described is fishing off Sandy Hook, there were also substantial catches made on the Tin Can Grounds off Rockaway, New York. This is an area easily reached by northern New Jersey boats. It is located on the red side of Ambrose Channel, roughly between buoy 4A and the tip of Breezy Point with the bulk of the fishing being done closer to the channel. Techniques used here are basically the same as described above. However, the lure I've seen used more often there is the shorter (about four inches) Tiger Tail in natural surgical tube color. The Tiger Tail is still fished by bouncing it gently off the bottom.

In fact, the best demonstrations of weakfishing I have seen have been on the Tin Can Grounds. Four guys from Sheepshead Bay in a 20 foot Mako slaughtered the fish on several occasions, while the rest of us just had a pick. They were using Tiger Tails and I saw other boats almost on top of them trying to duplicate what they were doing, but to no avail. Try as I might, I just couldn't figure out what these guys were doing! My conclusion is that, when I see that 20 foot Mako, I go in the opposite direction because I feel foolish watching them haul in one weakie after another while I pick one or two (although these guys are commercial rod and reel fishermen and when your livelihood depends on it, you'd better be able to outfish everyone else).

A final note on weakfish is that they get their name not from their fighting abiltiy, but from their weak jawbones. Big weakfish must be netted or gaffed, and when expecting big fish I would suggest you check your equipment. The second fish we netted one night went right through the net! We managed to jury-rig a fix, but we lost valuable fishing time.

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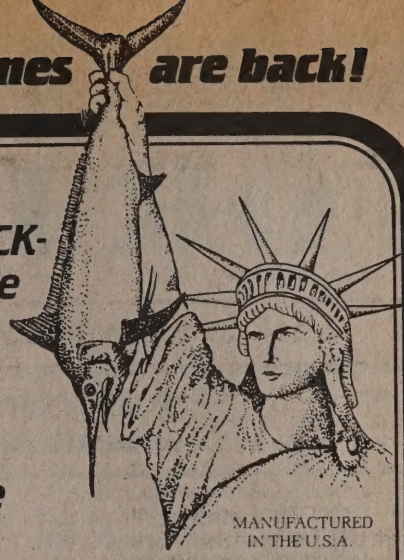

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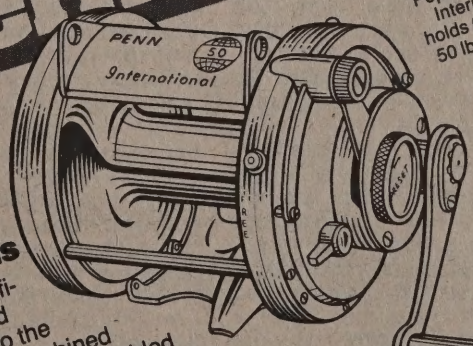

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WORK A WRECK FOR DOORMATS

by Matt Ahern

The time for outsize doormats is fast approaching for boatmen working south shore ocean wrecks.

Many fishermen agree one of the interesting facts about fluke is that the biggest one has yet to be caught. And because of this experienced fishermen know their chances of connecting with a record breaker are always good. These relatives of the halibut do indeed reach a noble size—the largest on record weighed 26 pounds and was taken commercially many years ago, which makes this weight quite a mark at which to shoot.

Big fluke are caught each year, but to get large doormats with any degree of certainty the veteran fluke fisherman knows late summer and early fall are most favorable. And he also knows more of these large fluke can be found around many of Long Island's (and New Jersey's) offshore wrecks at that particular time of year than in shallow bays and other protected areas.

I first heard about doormat wreck fishing some 55 years ago when I was a knee-pants kid driving everyone to distraction aboard party boats. But hearing about doormat fluke and catching doormat fluke were two different things. Oh, I tried; I copied the methods (or thought I did) of those old-timers who excelled at this particular type of wreck fishing, but it availed me naught.

It wasn't until two, three years later that I began to meet with some success. By degrees, and as I reached my late teens, I became more adept and it wasn't long after that that I became steeped in enough confidence to consider myself an experienced doormat wreck fisherman. But I didn't catch doormat fluke every time I tried—you can't catch 'em if they aren't there. And this applies as well today as it did then—more so today simply because there are fewer fluke.

Before we go further into this article, I want to ask you a simple question. How large do you think a fluke should be before it can be considered a doormat? A true doormat? Five pounds? Six? Heavier? Darned if I know. I can only tell you that in the long ago a fluke was never considered a "doormat" unless it weighed at least ten pounds. Anything under that weight was just a "nice fluke."

Now, I'm not about to take anything away from the fisherman who catches a six pounder and claims he nailed a doormat. A six pound fluke is nothing to sneeze at and there have been many times when I would have settled for a three pound "doormat" and been happy as all get-out. The term "doormat" as used today is relevant to the conditions on hand. Certainly if I nailed a six pounder (which is something I have yet to do this summer), I'd feel justified in calling it a doormat.

But as I say, in the long ago only a ten pound fluke, or better, was considered worthy of the name "doormat." Therefore, when your buddy told you he caught a doormat, you knew he had nailed a fluke of bragging size.

How big were doormat fluke in the long ago? Well, those caught during summer when drifting off Sandy Hook could and did go to 15 pounds. I never caught a fluke over 12 pounds off Sandy Hook; most were 10 to 11 pounders. And these I caught only once or twice a summer—not every day as one might gather from the tall tales of those who were never there. But I did catch my share of seven to nine pounders—say two a week (I fished every day at that time); the majority of the fluke were average, about one and a half to two pounds, and extremely plentiful.

Well—enough of that...let's get to doormat wreck fishing.

When fluke arrive in late spring, they seldom linger around wrecks. No doubt this is because the ocean water is still holding some of winter's chill. I'm sure this is the main reason few fluke are caught along ocean beaches before July.

Wreck fishermen do catch an occasional fluke while porgy fishing during July and early August (Lord knows I've caught my share of them at this time), but it isn't until late summer when offshore waters really become warm that doormat fluke prowl the wrecks in search of food to sustain them on their long migration to the Continental Shelf.

Any attempt to specialize in doormat fluke fishing means that sturdy tackle is necessary. It isn't required that codfishing gear be used, but spinning rods certainly lack something to be desired. A medium-weight conventional rod and a matching reel capable of holding at least 150 yards of 40 pound test good quality monofilament line is an ideal combination.

Rigging is simple (as it is with all bottom fishing). If you know how to rig for the smaller bay fluke, you'll have no problem with doormat rigging. Everything is the same, except that every component is on a larger or heavier scale. Your hook should be a 5/0 or 6/0 Carlisle (some fellows use a Kirby because of its extra strength). Wreck fishing for doormat fluke is the only area where I do not use a regular-shanked Sproat. The hook is simply too "small" for that outsized mouth armed with those wicked-looking teeth. To me, they are downright scary!

Your leader should be of 40 pound test material, and from three to four feet long. The longer one is preferred. I don't know why that extra foot should make a difference, but it does. I believe the extra length allows for better bait presentation.

Leader material is purchased in legnths approximately four feet long, and the full length should be used. Incidentally, leader material is purposely made stiff to prevent curling around the main line, so don't substitute the mono from your reel—at least not for doormat fishing! Not only won't it properly do the job, it will have you gnashing your teeth in frustration.

If you have difficulty finding leader sizes, or hooks, send a card to Midland Tackle Company, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974, and request their free catalog. It lists various weights of leader material and also a handy guide for those of us who snell our own hooks.

The use of a three-way swivel is left to you. I find it isn't necessary, but if you decide to use one it should be at least 4/0 in size. Many fishermen tie the leader directly to the line after first forming a two inch loop about three inches above the sinker.

Sinker weight will vary, depending on depth of water and current strength. When drifting along the edges of a wreck, a bank sinker from eight to ten ounces, sometimes more, should be used. If at anchor over a wreck, a five or six ounce lead will

usually be satisfactory. The use of correct sinker weight can be a problem as conditions often change from day to day and even hour to hour. It is best to carry a supply of various weights.

And then again, don't forget that wreck fishing often takes a toll of terminal tackle that is unbelievable to the uninitiated, especially wrecks like the Iberia off Long Beach. This is no problem on a party boat, but if you plan to fish aboard a private craft, let a word to the wise be sufficient.

A wide, long-handled net is a must—absolutely. Doormats are not only broad-backed, but quite tricky when brought to the surface. When netting such a fish extreme care should be the watchword. Be sure to hold the net quietly before the fish and **always** lead it into the net.

The cardinal rule is to never approach a hooked fish with a net, and never, never attempt to net one from behind. To do so assures a lost fish. This rule applies to any fish, anywhere, but particularly to fluke, large or small. Years ago we never netted large fluke; we always used a gaff.

Fluke love to prowl wrecks in their search for food. If it swims, they'll go for it, but there are baits for which a definite preference is shown. One of these is a large strip taken from the side of a smooth dogfish—I've been using it whenever possible for at least 50 years and it works wonders on doormats.

This summertime doggie is usually smaller than those caught in winter. They also lack those flesh-puncturing spines, making them much easier to handle. Not only does this bait produce excellent results, but its emery-like hide makes it difficult for fluke to grab and run free, leaving you with a bare hook.

To prepare, slice off both sides of the doggie and use strips about 6-7 inches long. Run the hook through the widest part (once only—and only once!) and let it trail in the current. It is important to jig constantly.

When you have a pick-up (this will feel like a sudden weight), cease jigging and allow the fluke to work on the strip. The fluke will get it down and take off with a powerful flick of its tail. It isn't necessary to set the hook, the fish will have done that for you. Let the fish run—and above all, don't become overly excited. Keep your wits about you—and don't fret. I've seen my share of lost doormats, but this calamity has only happened to those fishermen who let the fish take over. So, keep cool, give the fish its head when it wants to go, but allow no slack. If you do this, your fish is going nowhere but on deck.

What to use if you have no dogfish strips on hand? Whatever you use inshore for bay fluke will do the trick, but again, as with the tackle, this should be oversized, too. The largest live killies, six and seven inch live bergalls, large bergall strips, sea robin strips, fluke belly strips, in fact, any type of fish bait will do the trick—if it is large enough. I've experimented during the days of plenty and never once did I catch a doormat on a small bait. This isn't to say you won't, only to say I haven't. One more thing: if you're used to inshore fluke fishing, those large baits I recommend will seem enormous to you—but a doormat won't think so!

The best way to fish doormats on offshore wrecks is to drift around the edges. It is there where fluke lie, waiting patiently for some luckless victim to venture too far from its shelter. If anchored over the wreck, the best method is to cast out as far as possible (underhanded, of course) and work the bait back. If casting is frowned upon and you must fish straight up and down, remember to put plenty of action in your bait by continuously jigging the rod.

All these methods work well; you may be sure they'll catch doormats for you—if they are around. That's the big "if." But don't concern yourself about that. You won't know if you don't try it. Even in the days of plenty, not every day produced outsized fluke. But we kept trying and the law of averages always shifted to our side.

I can tell you one thing about doormat fluke fishing. There's no other bottom fishing quite like it!

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THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THE FLASHIEST FIGHTING SHARK ON SPORTING TACKLE IS THE ... A-THRESHER ☐ B-HAMMERHEAD ☐ C-WHITE TIP ☐ D-MAKO ☐ E-TIGER ☐

(2) WHITE BASS, CLOSEST RELATIVES OF THE STRIPED BASS, ARE FOUND IN FRESHWATER ☐ SALTWATER ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) NEEDLEFISH CAN BE USED FOR BAIT.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(4) FINS COMMON TO MOST FISH ARE THE D___, C___, P___, P___, AND A___.

THIS PORGY GAVE SHEEPSHEAD BAY ITS NAME.

(5) WHEN FISHED, EARTHWORMS MUST BE REPLACED OFTEN BECAUSE THEY QUICKLY DROWN WHEN SUBMERGED IN WATER.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(6) IS THERE DOCUMENTED PROOF THAT GIANT SQUIDS REALLY EXIST, A READER ASKS ?

1-D. THE MAKO IS ALSO CALLED THE LEAPING SHARK. 2-FRESHWATER. 3-TRUE. HOOK ONE THROUGH THE HEAD WITH A JIG AND YOU HAVE A GOOD TROLLING RIG. 4-DORSAL, CAUDAL, PECTORAL, PELVIC AND ANAL. 5-FALSE. EARTHWORMS CAN BREATHE DISSOLVED OXYGEN. 6-YES. THEY HAVE BEEN RELIABLY REPORTED WORLD WIDE UP TO 60 FT. IN 1958 A 47 FT. SQUID WAS CAPTURED OFF THE BAHAMAS.

FORT POND'S NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

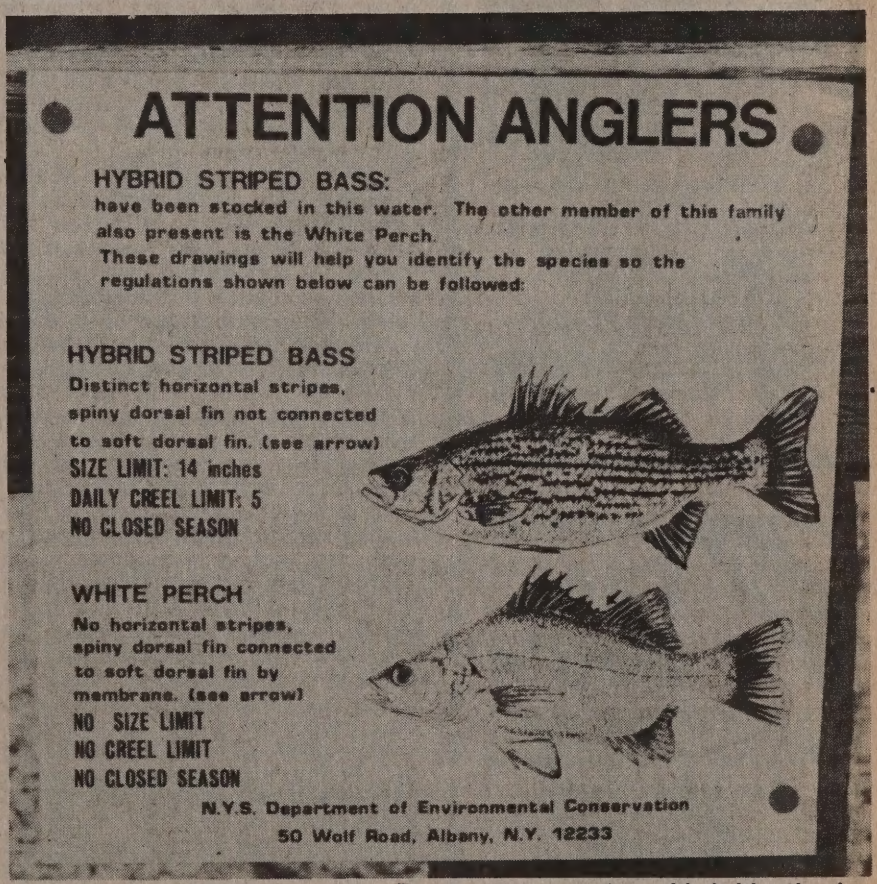
by Carl Buxbaum

This tenacious hybrid should provide anglers that work this body of water with some exciting new freshwater action.

There is an interesting new kid on the block in Montauk's Fort Pond: a hybrid cross between the majestic striped bass and its diminutive cousin, the white bass. As the kid grows up, it should provide some exciting new challenges and fishing experiences for local anglers.

My attention was drawn to this fish in the middle of August, 1982. I was rapidly retrieving a deep diving crank bait at a spot on Fort Pond that looks very fishy, but never produced much action for me. For some silly reason I continue to briefly experiment there whenever I'm on the pond. During the retrieve I felt a few short, firm taps and assumed that the ever present stunted white perch were characteristically assaulting a lure nearly their own size. On the second retrieve, one of them managed to impale itself on a hook. I was astonished as I lifted the fish from the water preparing for its release. Dangling from the plug was either a white perch in prison garb or the smallest (about four inches) striped bass I had ever seen. It was bright silver with clear black stripes extending from the gill plates to the tail. Below the lateral line the stripes were broken. I have since learned that there are other characteristics that help in distinguishing between hybrid striped bass, white perch, white bass and striped bass, but they are not obvious on so small a specimen. It was, however, a beautiful fish, and it sparked my curiosity. You see, I am one of those guys who is obsessed with striped bass. Every free night during the spring and fall migrations, I can be found casting into the surf on one beach or another. During the rest of the year, I literally think and eat striped bass. I had to find out more about that four inch gem.

At home that evening, I consulted McClane's **Field Guide to Fresh Water Fishes of North America** and the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) book, **World Record Game Fishes** and convinced myself that I caught something other than a white perch. What particular fish it was and how it found its way into Fort Pond would have remained a mystery except for the fact that I recalled reading somewhere and hearing some rumors that the pond had recently been stocked with hybrid striped bass. These factors led to my next consultations. I am indebted to Charlies Guthrie at our regional office of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and my local library for educating me about these hybrids well enough to begin developing an applicable fishing strategy.


ATTENTION ANGLERS
HYBRID STRIPED BASS:
have been stocked in this water. The other member of this family also present is the White Perch.
These drawings will help you identify the species so the regulations shown below can be followed:
HYBRID STRIPED BASS
Distinct horizontal stripes, spiny dorsal fin not connected to soft dorsal fin. (see arrow)
SIZE LIMIT: 14 inches
DAILY CREEL LIMIT: 5
NO CLOSED SEASON
WHITE PERCH
No horizontal stripes, spiny dorsal fin connected to soft dorsal fin by membrane. (see arrow)
NO SIZE LIMIT
NO CREEL LIMIT
NO CLOSED SEASON
N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12233

Photograph of DEC sign at Fort Pond advising anglers of hybrid striped bass program.

The first successful cross breeding of striped bass and white bass was achieved in 1965. The selected parent fish were a good risk for such a project since they are very closely related. In fact, it is believed that once they were the same species. However, those that become permanently trapped in freshwater—white bass—evolved differently from the striped bass which had continued access to a marine environment. The first hybrids came to be called whiterock bass—a combination of the parental names. In the Maryland area stripers are called rockfish. Later, stocking programs in Florida led to the additional name of sunshine bass. Bringing the two species together again has been great for freshwater fishing. The highly desirable sport and food characteristics of the striped bass have been pretty much retained along with the white bass' adaptations to freshwater environments. The results are a hybrid that survives better, initially grows more rapidly, is adaptable to a wider range of conditions, and is more vulnerable to fishing than the noble striped bass. Even more important is the fact that there are no known negative effects on other game fish populations where the hybrids have been introduced.

(Continued on next page.)

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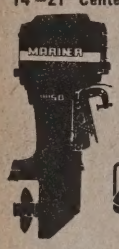
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Before you get too excited, take note of the fact that on the average these fish do not seem to have a life expectancy which would allow them to attain the size and weight of a cow striper in the ocean. But there may be individual fish that are very long lived. Remember, that the first one bred, if still living, is only about 18-years-old. Some individual fish may survive that long—only time will tell. The present all-tackle world record of 20.6 pounds was set in Georgia back in 1977. That is impressive. Our local experience will depend primarily on how the hybrids adapt to the conditions and forage in Fort Pond. If the fish take to this body of water, they should grow to perhaps as much as 10 pounds in an average life span. At that size and with the inherited fighting characteristics of striped bass, these hybrids may revolutionize Long Island's freshwater game fishing.

Many of Long Island's dedicated marine anglers may even be attracted to this fishery for a number of reasons. Striped bass have become scarce in our coastal waters, and further population declines are projected. The trend toward light tackle in saltwater may make those fishermen more comfortable with freshwater gear, and they may learn to be pleased with an important piece of understanding about freshwater fishing that I first heard from Johnny Kronuch at his Montauk tackle shop. After a fairly successful day on Fort Pond a couple of years ago, I hoped to push my luck and stopped in at Johnny's for a surf report. He advised me to stick with freshwater that night saying, "At least you know the fish are there." This insight really struck home as I remembered all those discouraging times casting into what may have been a surf void of fish.

How good will the hybrid fishing be? At present, we can only speculate but there is cause for optimism. The water quality of Fort Pond is good—perhaps the best on Long Island, and there is plenty of forage to fatten predators. The DEC launched the stocking program primarily to reduce an excess of panfish, especially white perch, which had become stunted because of the intense competition for food which occurs under conditions of over-population. Although stunted, they are too large to conveniently serve as forage for the Pond's largemouth and smallmouth bass. Also, through competition and predation, the overabundant white perch were probably causing, or contributing to, the decline experienced in the population of young black bass. Therefore, the stunted panfish were threatening an otherwise fine black bass fishery. The DEC determined that an aggressive supplementary predator could bring the panfish population back into balance. The hybrid striper was chosen to do the job. It should thrive well with good water quality and a plentiful food supply.

The next question for the fisherman is, how do I catch these fish? Since we have no local experience with them, it pays to look at what is known about their habits, behavior, and food preferences in order to formulate a preliminary fishing strategy. Where there are gaps in knowledge, we can examine information about the parent fish and assume a degree of genetic persistence.

Like the striped bass, the hybrids have shown a distinct dietary preference for members of the herring family. They are, however, much less fussy about dining than striped bass, and when preferred foods are not available, they eat almost any live fish of the right size that is available. Although we do not yet know their first choice in Fort Pond, the menu includes: white and yellow perch, blue gills, banded killifish, bullheads, and carp. If there is anything to the belief that it is important to match-the-hatch, bass anglers will have to make some changes in lure selection when pursuing the hybrids. A standard bassing approach of casting plastic worms and big spinnerbaits will probably yield some incidental catches of hybrids, but be less productive than a well chosen set of swimming plugs, spoons, bucktail jigs and in-line spinners such as the Mepps or Rooster Tails. All of these can be worked to present a fairly good imitation of the natural forage, especially if the right colors are used. That four incher, mentioned earlier, took a plug with a naturalized yellow perch finish. In addition, all the lures noted have demonstrated effectiveness in taking the hybrid and both parent fish on other bodies of water.

It is also known that these are schooling fish which seem to have a distinct preference for moving through open water rather than hugging cover in the manner of black bass. Therefore, selecting spots with good cover or bottom structure will not be as productive with the hybrids. Strategies new to most local bass fishermen seem in order—or, at least, worth a try. First, it appears wise to carefully scan the water for signs of surface turbulence caused by baitfish attempting to escape attack. Both stripers and white bass are known to viciously tear into schools of small fish and drive them to the surface. Your approach to such a scene will have to be both quick and cautious. Quick, because the school may suddenly move off and cautious, because the hybrids are likely to be easily spooked. Move quietly and only as close as required by your maximum casting distance. These fish will sound as soon as your presence is detected.

Signs of fish, however, will usually be absent, and the logical approach to locating some seems to be trolling. You may avoid spooking them by having the lure running at the end of a long line and keeping the rod extended out from the side of the boat. Keep a marker buoy of some sort handy, so you can find the school

again when there is a hookup. Both white bass and stripers in freshwater are known to prefer open expanses of rocky or sandy bottom. There are a few, relatively small such areas in Fort Pond, and it may prove productive to narrow the trolling range by concentrating on those places, at least during your early efforts.

Another way of locating hybrids is to put your fishing effort in water they find most comfortable. Although they will move into nearly any water when chasing bait, these fish try to stay in a temperature range of 55 to 65 degrees. Either trolling or casting, therefore, it is important to get your lures to the optimal depth. It may pay to invest in a fisherman's thermometer. Some modestly priced ones are now on the market. At the least, it seems sensible to fish fairly deep water when the summer sun has driven surface water temperatures well over the 70 degree mark.

During the summer, water temperatures are more to the liking of these fish at night. If they bear any resemblance to their larger parent, the striper, the best way to improve your catch may be to fish between dusk and dawn. In addition to changes in water temperature, stripers simply seem to feed more actively in darkness.

Now that a beginning fishing strategy has been thought out, when can we test it and see how it works? The DEC has established a minimum size limit of 14 inches for Fort Pond's hybrid striped bass, and the stocked fingerlings should attain that size by this fall. This coincides with the return of favorable water temperatures, and, since there is no closed season for these fish, I intend to eagerly pursue them from September on. More important, this fishery will be able to fill the gap between the first stirrings of spring weather and the June opening of the black bass season.

Even if the hybrid stripers thrive in this new home, it is very difficult to predict the future of the fishery. Though the fish are technically not sterile, there is no presently available evidence that they have successfully spawned anywhere. A self-sustaining population in Fort Pond, therefore, is extraordinarily unlikely. The creel limit is five fish per day but even if anglers practice catch and release, it is not likely that it will have much of a long term effect on the fishery. Since the fish cannot reproduce and are short lived anyway, fishermen may as well keep all they can within the law. Some excellent meals should result. Future fishing for hybrid stripers is primarily dependent upon the DEC's continued commitment to a stocking program and the availability of fingerlings from hatcheries. These two factors could support a healthy "put, grow and take" fishery so long as there is a good adaptation to Fort Pond and the black bass residing there experience no negative side effects.

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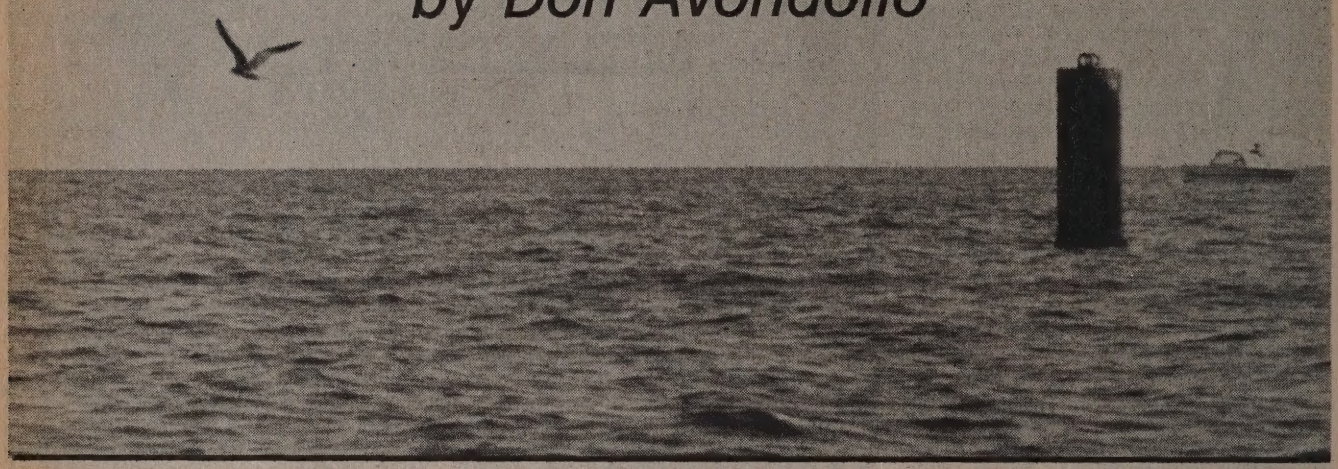
GATHER ROUND THE OB BUOY

by Don Avondolio



Located north of Eaton's Neck, this buoy annually marks the spot for some of the best fishing in Long Island Sound.

Approximately four miles northwest of Eaton's Neck peninsula in Long Island Sound, is a cylindrically shaped can buoy. Used for navigation purposes, it is horizontally striped with alternate red and black colors. To Long Island Sound anglers, this buoy is recognized as one of the three vertices of a triangular shaped area of great fishing potential, known as the Eaton's Neck Triangle. For years, this popular area has housed enormous quantities of baitfish which attract many predator species. Fairly consistent, but critical locations along the triangular area have produced significant catches in previous years. Bluefish, striped bass, weakfish, fluke and porgies are some of the more popular species taken in this area. Occasionally, spring or summer fishing is evident, but the norm is usually not until late July and into November. Most of the productive fishing starts near the Port Jefferson Harbor entrance, or near Smithtown Bay. After a period of four to eight weeks, the shift is over to the "Triangle" area. This location really get "hot," and boats are evident in great numbers, particularly during weekend periods.

Why the Obstruction Buoy? Well, I have found over many years that this particular spot was most consistent. It's more predictable than most north shore fishing locations. The geographical location is somewhat in the middle of cross-currents evolving from Huntington/Northport Harbor, and ebbing water from western Long Island Sound. This current flow, combined with ragged bottom structure helps to produce a turbulent, rip-like situation that often attracts groups of feeding predators. The fairly shallow shoal, surrounded by deep water is still another reason for its fish appeal. Under the "O" buoy, and somewhat oval shaped, with its longest dimension running northwest to southeast is a raised bottom structure. At the buoy, the structure is 16 to 18 feet at average low tide. A larger shoal, roughly concentric to the first is 22 to 27 feet deep. Thus we have a perfect hiding, or resting place for predators while tide current is moving rapidly over the reef during various changes of flow.

As with most spots, fishing techniques are varied and really are chosen to meet the angler's preference. The most exciting and sporting method is to employ a jigging technique. This is tough to accept by the novice fisherman, mainly because of the appearance around the buoy. A vast body of water surrounds the buoy and often there are no positive indications of fish on top. Many times pods of fish are spotted on my chart recorder close to the bottom ledge. By patiently jigging the location while drifting, I've teased bass and weaks to the surface. It's amazing how many times boats leave the shoal too soon, missing out on great fishing. Of course, there are alternate methods for catching fish at this location, and sometimes they are more efficient. First, let's discuss jigging the O buoy area. It is best to vary the jigging action until hits are made. Start by dropping your jig to the bottom, reel 10 to 15 turns and then repeat the drop to bottom. If blues are in the area, reel faster and change to a continuous retrieve motion from bottom to top at a relatively fast speed. Another sometimes deadly action is produced by dropping the jig to the bottom and while drifting (fairly slow with wind and current), drag or bounce the jig along the bottom with slow lifts and drops. Another technique, trolling, is commonly used at the O buoy to find pods of fish more rapidly. Then a jigging technique can be substituted. Wire line, or downriggers combined with umbrella rigs are really the best. Troll concentric circle patterns, starting adjacent to the buoy, or use zigzag patterns back and forth across the shoal until hits are made. It's best to first hit bottom with your artificial lure, then mark line; retrieve line and return it to the path trolled keeping just enough line in the water to ride a foot above the bottom shoal. Casting a plug, spoon, jelly worm, or jig away from the boat while drifting and then retrieving it is still another method of probing for fish. The lure must be retrieved slow with an intermittent up and down jigging motion applied. Very often a hit is recognized at the pause in your retrieve or at the end of the retrieve. It's best to alternately cast in a circular pattern away from your boat to cover all areas of the shoal. One method of accurately placing an artificial lure directly below the boat, is to use light line in the jigging process. Eight or ten pound test line

will not "kite out" like heavier line and is strong enough to catch most fish, especially if your reel drag is set light. I have consistently caught fish on light line when heavier line did not produce.

A little knowledge about this buoy location can really improve your fishing. I have found that one hour before the change of tide, either ebb or incoming, is significant for best results. Whether baitfish are caught more easily at this time, or speed of tide flow reduces effort of feeding, is pure speculation on my part. But I do know that this period produces best—consistently! Two other valuable tips are worth mentioning and could be helpful. The first is to use several lures that have proven deadly at this spot. Use a bucktail with pork rind, a 1½ ounce Whiptail, or jelly worm. All three artificials have taken 90 percent of my fish here. There are many other good lures on the market, but I recommend the above three. Fished patiently and with the proper technique, they will produce fish if fish are there. Also, during certain times of current flow, the difference of a half ounce can mean the difference between success and failure. Lure action must be realistic; sometimes a wounded appearance will increase results. The second tip is to alternate colors of artificials. If a particular color does not produce after half an hour of working the Shoal area, try a new color. This is especially true with jelly worms or umbrella rig tubes. A change of color is important also when light conditions change. For instance, when dusk arrives, it's best to use a darker color which is easily silhouetted against a dark background.

One of my most interesting experiences occurred at this O buoy location some years ago. It was a bright, hot, August day; winds were zero to five knots. We were fishing initially at high tide—approximately 11AM. We had taken weaks of 14 and 8 pounds; several blues, and a 23 pound bass. The day passed, and fishing slowed. I realized that six and a half hours had passed, and fishing would improve soon. We planned to repeat drifting over the same shoal area, but the captain of our private 27 foot boat had other ideas. It was getting late, and he decided to prepare food in his galley. We slowly drifted away from the critical spot. An adjacent fishing boat moved into the critical location, jigging as he drifted. Within seconds, I watched him fight and land a cow bass of 46 pounds. The food we ate somehow did not taste as good as expected. Enough said!

In conclusion—for accurate timing of good fishing at the "O" buoy, read the reports in The Long Island Fisherman, unless you're able to fish frequently. Until pods of fish are located, use umbrella rigs and troll until you find fish. Try methodical jigging using artificials of varied sizes, colors and actions. During September and until November, bass are super abundant at the shoal. At times, waves as high as four or five feet are caused by frequent strong northerly winds. During this period, it's almost mandatory to wear rain gear and warm layered clothing for comfort. At this time of year, daytime fishing is best as schools of bass and blues are migrating in and out of Long Island waters. Tackle should be slightly heavier and in top condition. Cold, rough weather during the fall season has a tendency to test equipment to a maximum. Umbrella rigs with trailing white tubes, or bucktails are choice lures. At first light, boat traffic at the buoy is less as many boat fishermen seem to favor midday periods during calm weather intervals. If birds are hanging over the shoal, as they commonly do during predator feeding periods, work as close to the spot as practical. These birds are accurate indicators of fish or baitfish schools. Learn the peculiarities of the "OB" Buoy by trying new positions and coordinating these moves with current stages. Record data and you'll really be saving precious fishing time next time out. This is the time when local "pin-hookers" are out in force, along with other fishing addicts. Watching them work, the sometimes hectic action within your own boat, combined with screeching terns, gulls will make the most relaxed fisherman's heart pound rapidly. So try the "Obstruction Buoy" and join the excitement.

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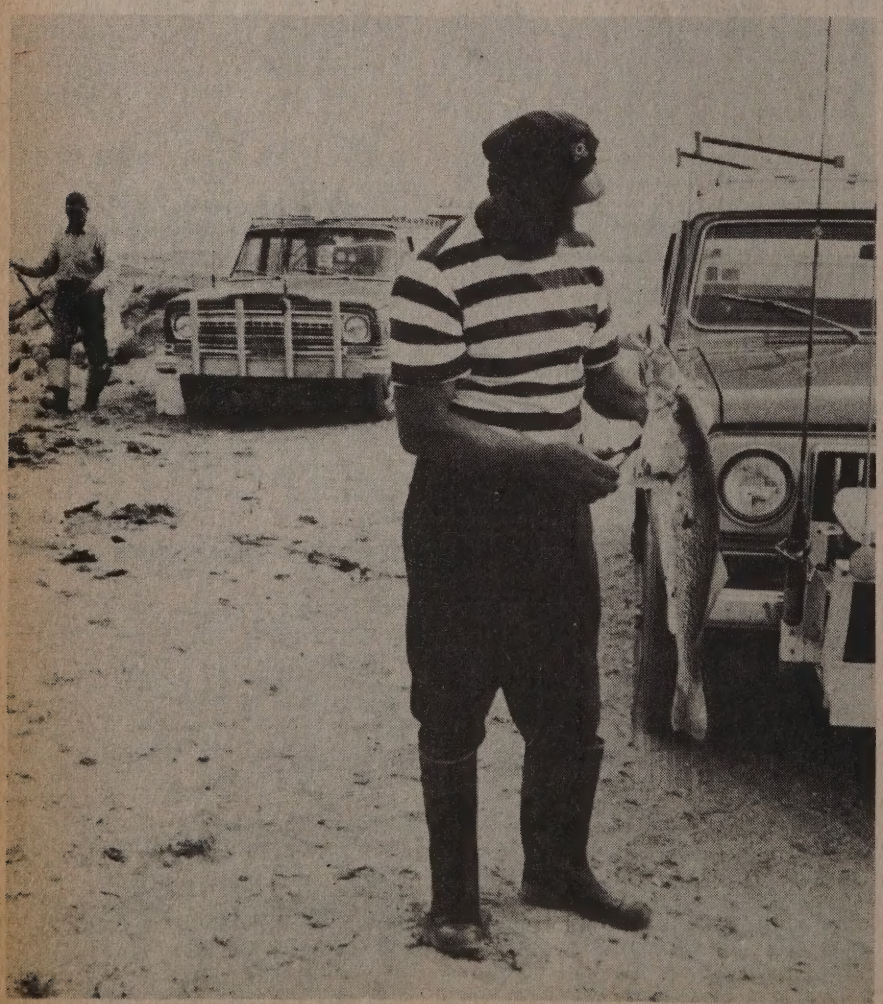
DOUBLE YOUR FUN IN THE SURF

by Herb Buch

A mix of small and larger game fish make for a nice blend of surf fishing action.

At Cedar Beach in the late summer or fall, it is very common to see a buggy with a big surf stick set in the bumper rack, the line extending out into the inlet, while the owner is whipping out a tiny spoon on a freshwater spinning rod nearby. For every hit that he gets on the big stick, he may get 10 or 20 on the little one. Each hit results in a scrappy little snapper, or some other small fry, which will either be used for bait, or if nothing else develops can be brought home to freeze or eat. Instead of just sitting and waiting for action, he is enjoying some fine light tackle sport. Not only that, but he can bait up his big rod with a live fish of a size to attract big weaks, blues, or stripers. At this time of every year, some tremendous weaks are taken on these live snappers, but there is more to the story.

A mile or two to the east, when the tide is incoming, there will be a line of snapper fishermen along the east cove of the Sore Thumb, each one with a pailful of saltwater. As soon as one of them has a few snappers in the pail, he will climb to the top of the Thumb to where his buggy is parked facing east, and bait the hooks on his big rods with lively snappers. Instead of the pyramid sinker used on the open beach, a bank sinker will avoid many snags at the base of the rocks. There is a deep cut along the east face of the Thumb, and relatively slack water during the incoming tide. It is also a great spot for big fall tide-runners.



John "Zorba the Greek" Gallis used a live snapper to take this fine weak from the Sore Thumb.

Some years back, we had a great run of tinker mackerel along the Atlantic Beach and Rockaway shoreline. It was common to hook a mack on a small jig, transfer it to a single unweighted hook on a big rod, and get a pick-up by a good sized striper. The same thing happened at many different points on the island. Both live-lining mackerel as described, and fishing them on the bottom either whole or cut, can produce game fish.

Hickory shad used to be regular visitors to our beaches. They are real fighters and jumpers, but usually too large to be used as live bait. Just put them into the cooler and chunk them for night fishing. Not only stripers, but big blues love them, and both are likely to be around well into November.

We are very fortunate on Long Island. In late summer there is usually a bumper crop of small fish to attract and feed the big ones that we love to catch. In spite of the fact that any type of fishing can go dead on some days we can usually find a target for our light tackle. A skillful baitfisherman can really make good scores. At times, using lures will not produce as many game fish, but for most of us, the thrill of seeing a big blue or bass smash an artificial is worth the wait.

Inlets are the best locations for collecting bait. They are also excellent places to use the bait. However, if the big ones are not around the inlet, you can take the bait down the beach to try your favorite spots.

The best outfit for collecting bait seems to be a light, freshwater spin stick, fitted with a small reel full of six pound test mono. The lures to be used are small, and the lighter outfits make it easy to get them out. Some favorites are the Kastmaster, Sidewinder, Sprite, Swedish Pimple, and Hopkins. Sizes range from about a half ounce down to as light as you can cast. Reeled at medium speed with occasional twitches of the rod tip, they will usually take most of the small fry and an occasional small blue.

If you catch your bait at one of your favorite spots, just unhook it carefully and attach it to the hook on your big rod. Cast it out, loosen your drag, and leave the rod in the sandspike. If you have to transport your bait, be sure to have a cooler at hand, loaded with ice. Some fanatics have been seen hustling live bait in a bucket of sea water in the direction of their on-road vehicles. Owners of off-road vehicles can set up a large round plastic can with one of the many good aerators that work off lantern batteries or can be hooked up to the car's circuits. Since I usually walk or use a regular auto, my favorite is a lightweight styrofoam cooler in the shape of a bucket. They are easy to carry and do not take up much space in your car trunk.

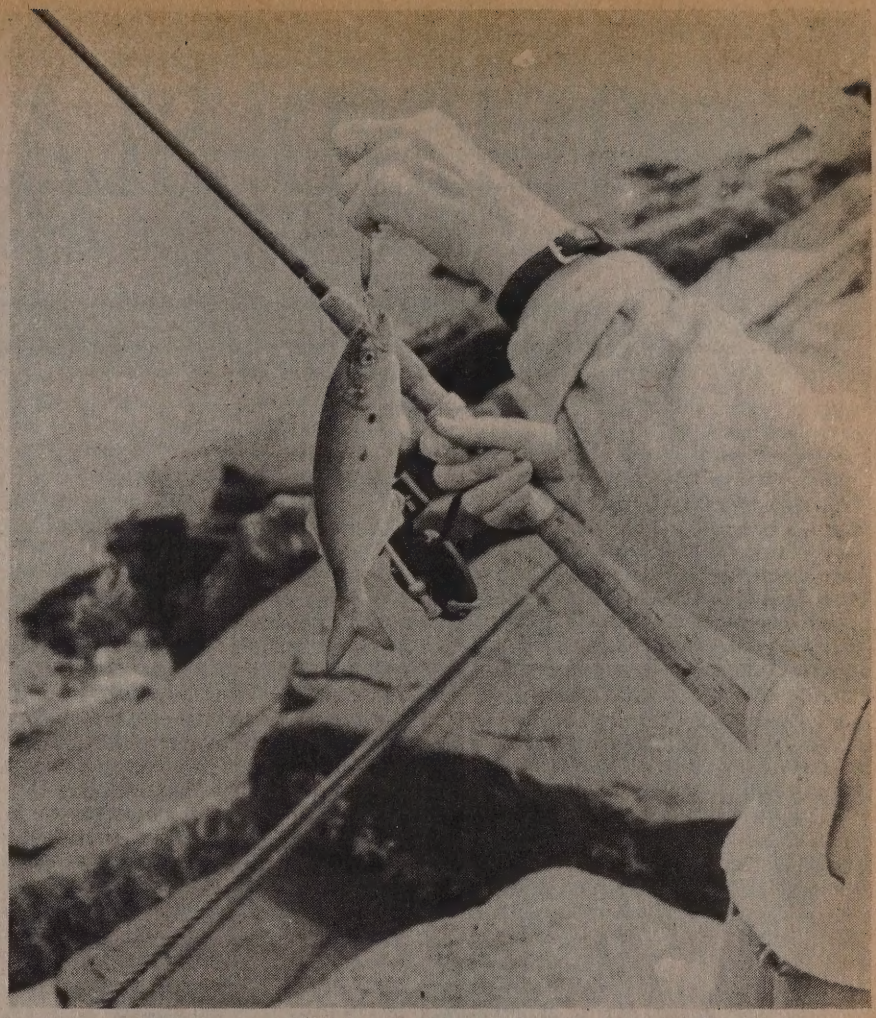
If you ice your bait as soon as you catch it, it will be in excellent condition for a couple of days. If you wish to save it for a longer period of time, get it home as soon as possible (in an iced cooler), and flash freeze packages that will do for a single trip. Bait treated in this way will work almost as well as fresh caught bait. You should slice them up with a sharp knife while they are still partly frozen, rather than waiting for them to completely thaw. There will be less tearing of the flesh if you do this.

Now that you have a good supply of bait, how do you use it? First off, you need a heavy outfit. Eleven or twelve foot powerful rods, and either conventional or spinning reels will be satisfactory. For general use on a conventional reel the line should be about 30 pound test. To avoid losing too much distance in your cast, I would limit myself to 20 pound test on a spin reel. Your line takes a severe beating in the process of baitfishing. Sand and rocks both take their toll. Use only first quality line and check the end for wear regularly. Cut back at least 10 feet after every trip, and I promise myself every season that I will cut back a few feet and retie the rig after every fish. Unfortunately, when the fish are active, I am often too anxious to get my bait out for the next one. This leads to lost fish.

The most favored rig for big baits is the fish finder. A simple version is put together by sliding a snap swivel (to hold the sinker) onto your line, and then attaching a swivel of similar size to the end of your line. To the second swivel, you tie two to three feet of 50 pound test mono. Use an improved clinch knot for that and to attach your hook at the other end. The size of the hook will vary with the size of the bait and the fish.

If weaks are picky, I will use a size 2/0 with strip bait or a small chunk, lightly hooked at one end. Always have the point of the hook clear of the bait so that you can set it properly after a pickup. A small live fish can be lip-hooked with this same hook.

Larger baitfish or big chunks may require hook sizes up to 6/0. Dark colored hooks seem to work better for me, and every new hook must be sharpened before it is used. I just purchased some new 5/0 bait hooks in a package that is labeled "razor sharp." Under a magnifying glass the points looked blunt. When blues are around, use a dull colored wire leader. Corks may be added to the leader if crabs become annoying.



Snappers are easy and fun to come by during August and September.

When casting with heavy line I do not use a shock leader, but I do attach a couple of feet of heavier mono to the end of my line with a blood knot. This takes the wear of the snap swivel, which may have up to six ounces of lead attached to it at times. Not only does this save many rigs, but when I slide a fish onto the sand, I can grab the heavy mono and pull (don't lift) the fish up to the beach. Big fish can easily snap lines when they are lifted, but not when you slide them smoothly over the sand. If you are on the rocks, you should use a long handled gaff.

At times, fish may be feeding under bait schools during daylight hours without showing on top. A live bait can be hooked in the back and lobbed out gently. It will swim around erratically and may attract some attention. If you only have dead bait, don't give up. Lip hook your small fish and toss it out. After it has had time to sink to the bottom, retrieve it in short hops for a few feet. Let it sink again, and then repeat.

No matter how you fish them, give the fish time to take the bait into its mouth after you feel the take. Whether big fish drop the bait, or hold it in their lips, by giving them plenty of time you will usually get a solid hook up. If you are using a spike to hold your rod, be sure that the drag on the reel is light. When you get a runoff, you let the fish go until it stops. When it starts to move again, hopefully it has the bait well into its mouth. You have tightened the drag. Now, reel in any slack and hit hard. If you are weakfishing, slack off on the drag again, and play it gently.

The fast currents around inlets make it necessary to fish the relatively slack water on the side of the jetty away from the current, or an eddy behind a sand bar. This is also usually where the bait piles up. Along the beach you should look for deeper areas that could hold bait and fish. Every storm has the potential to change the beach, so good spots do not remain productive indefinitely. Jetties keep producing fish for many years unless they are completely sanded in.

This year you can definitely increase your pleasure by carrying two outfits. The small fry are almost always available, even if the game fish are not. If the big boys won't cooperate, you can still have fun, and you can always eat the bait.

EAST END SLAMMERS

by Capt. Bill Ricca

Few spots on the East Coast provide such consistent action for monster blues as Montauk.

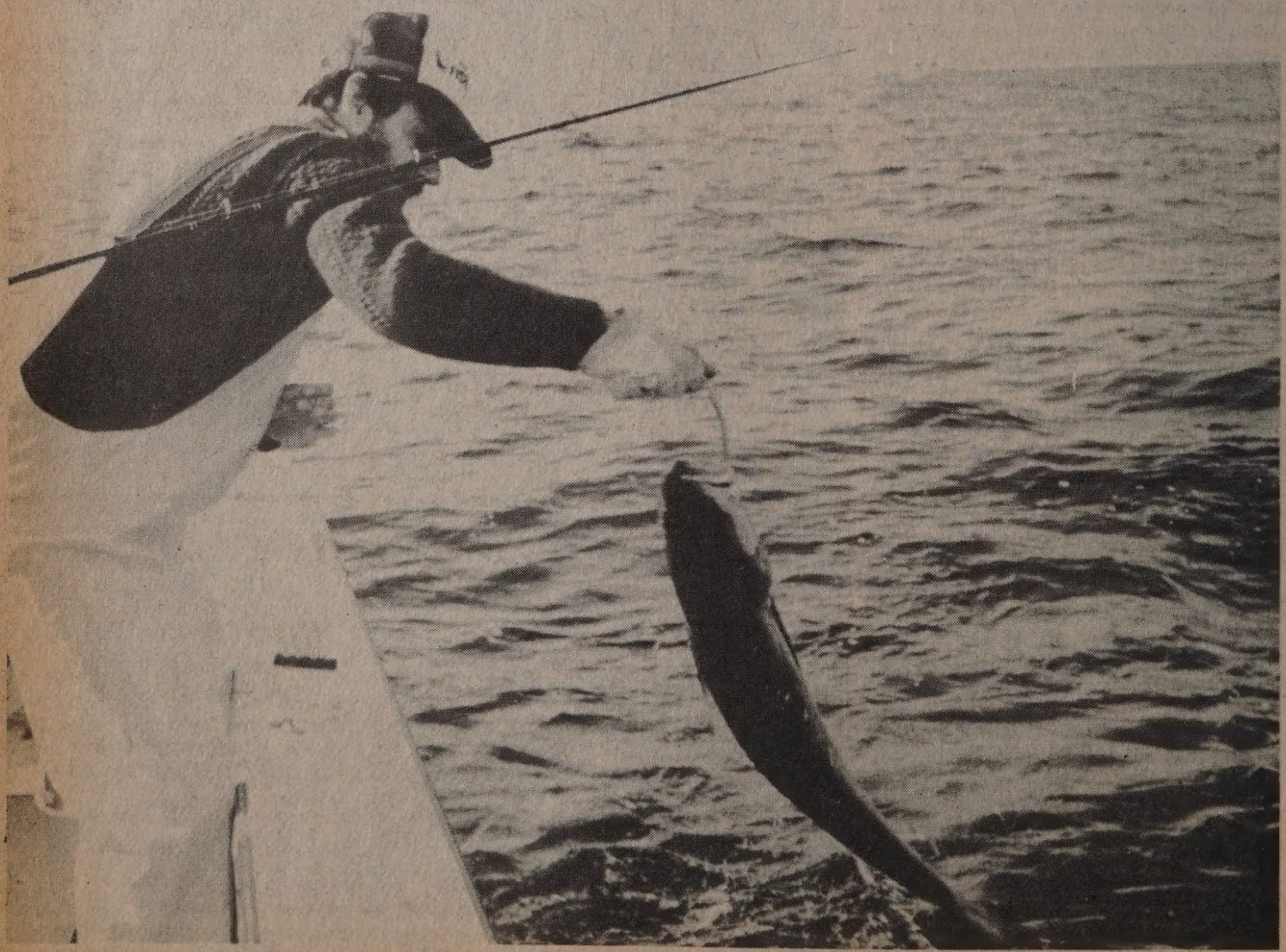
August, September and October are synonymous with bluefishing and for large (and extra-large) bluefish, there is no place like the waters off Montauk Point. The ebb and flood of the waters of Long Island Sound, Gardiner's and Peconic Bays sweep between Montauk and Block Island. This entire area (about 12 miles across) is noted for its rips which are caused by the tide pushing against obstructions on the ocean floor. In the case of Montauk, these obstructions are underwater rock piles and hills formed many thousands of years ago by the last glacier which pushed and carved its way across North America.

When the tide starts pumping, the turbulence caused by the rips becomes too great for small baitfish to contend with. They become confused and disoriented thus making them easy prey for hungry game fish such as blues, weaks and bass.

There are many "hotspots" for blues, from right under the light, to south of the Point, off Shagwong and virtually all the way to Block Island and beyond.

During this late summer and early fall season, blues are caught both day and night. Daytime fishing consists of diamond jigging, trolling and bait fishing.

Diamond jigs made by Ava, Tri-Fin and Bridgeport are the most popular. They come in different sizes, shapes and finishes. For the most part, four and six ounce jigs will foot the bill. However, at times, it is necessary to go smaller or larger. Most of the time a change to a smaller (two or three ounce) jig or a larger (eight ounce) one is required by two factors. The first is very fast moving or deep water when it is necessary to sometimes use eight ounce versions to get your jig down to the bottom where most fish spend most of their time. The second factor is the "match the hatch" theory. That is when you try to imitate the size of the bait in the area in which you are fishing. At times, the water is loaded with small sand eels two inches long or baby weakfish or bunker the size of a half dollar. When this condition presents itself you should switch to a two or three ounce jig and, if necessary, lighter line (15 or 20 pound test) to get the smaller jig to the bottom. On other occasions, the bluefish may be feeding on larger bait such as herring, bunker, conger eels, bergalls, etc. At this time, the larger, flatter eight ounce jig is necessary to score.



With the fish box already full, this angler attempts to release a lip hooked chopper.

These jigs can be armed with a plain hook or one covered with a tube. When bluefishing, I almost always rig the rods on my charter boat with a jig and tube and have found that white, green and red work best. Between my jig and main line, I use a three foot piece of 50 pound mono leader connected via a black barrel swivel.

The standard Montauk jigging outfits consist of Penn Jigmaster, Squidders, fast retrieve 3/0 or Daiwa 50H reels filled with 25 or 30 pound test line. A seven foot, medium action fast taper rod rounds out the outfit.

Trolling requirements are simple, with 4/0 reels, a 30 pound trolling rod and 400 feet of 40 pound test wire the standard. To the end of the wire, attach a 75 pound black swivel, then tie on a 15 to 20 foot length of 60 pound mono to serve as a leader. To the end of the mono add a large black ball bearing swivel. Next comes a lure that was developed and perfected by the Montauk fishing fleet, the infamous umbrella rig. My preference is the 13 tube variety. While I prefer to jig, at certain times it is necessary to troll. I have found the green, red, white and, at times, black tubes produce well.

The third method of bluefishing at Montauk is bait fishing with either whole bunker or whole herring. These are rigged on either a length of heavy wire or chain attached to either heavy drails or sinkers. One or two 8/0 bluefish hooks are employed in this type of fishing. This bait fishing can be carried on either during the day or at night. The areas that are most associated with bait fishing are Cartwright and south of Block Island. Your standard codfish outfit or heavy jigging setup can be used for this type of fishing.

Bluefish can also be jigged during the daytime at both of these locations with trolling a third choice.

Areas such as the Sub Buoy, Southwest Ledge, Southwest Point and the vast area known as the Triangle will produce well for jiggers and trollers.

It may take a trip or two to get acquainted with the exact methods and procedures employed in this fast and rugged fishing, but you can be sure it will be time well invested.

During the summer months it is usually a pleasant trip to Cartwright and the Block Island grounds. However, it is advisable to have at least a VHF radio, compass and depth recorder on board. While we are on the subject of equipment, your craft should have an adequate fish box (insulated, if possible), capable of holding sufficient ice to keep your catch fresh for the entire day.

Extra rods, reels, line, leaders, lures and jigs should also be aboard in case they are needed. This is tough fishing and big blues in "heavy" water are very demanding of your equipment. Being prepared can make the difference between a great day and a trip cut short due to equipment failure.

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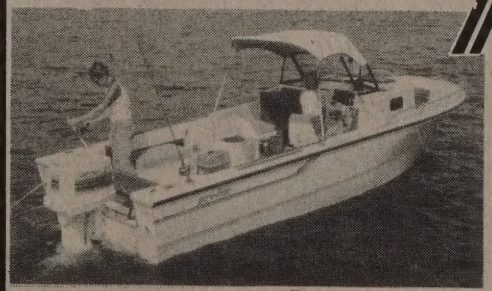

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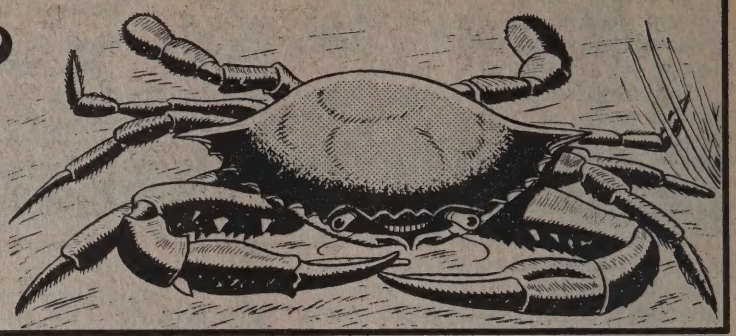
WHEREFORE ART THOU, BLUECLAW?

by Jim Capossela



The author tells how to search out those crabbing hotspots.

The best place to crab is in an estuary. But just because there are no true estuaries on Long Island, my recommendation is **not** that you take up geranium culture or macrame. What it **does** mean is that you should look for the next best thing to an estuary: a tidal creek.

Of all the places I've crabbed, none holds more appeal for me than a particular little tidal creek that I can almost spit across if the tide is out and the wind is right. I love the anticipation of waiting for the tide (and the crabs) to start sweeping in. I like squishing along the muddy banks, with the reeds and cattails brushing against my face. You can fill a bushel in other places—intercoastal waterways, bays of all descriptions, bridges, piers, docks and abutment. Yet to me, an intimate tidal creek is the essence of crabbing.

But, you ask, is there really any difference between an estuary and a tidal creek? Ah, good question!

An estuary is a protected arm of the sea that receives the input of one or more fresh waters, but is still "open" enough to receive strong infusions from the ocean. The classic example on our coast is the Chesapeake: the most productive crabbing ground in the world. Closer to home, the Hudson is a fine estuary (technically a drowned estuary), where crabbing is often very good (it's been excellent so far in 1983). In short, an estuary is a large body of water. There are none on Long Island.

A tidal creek might be considered an estuary in miniature. It's that portion of a freshwater stream that is reached by the tide. In other words, even at dead low tide, the stream will be running. When seeking blue claws, don't confuse a tidal creek with any old indentation in the shoreline. A true tidal creek is always running.

If the creek run directly into the ocean, it's likely that the crabbing will not be too hot. Further, you may have to go far inland to find the 7-5 parts per thousand (ppt) salt blue claws gravitate towards for their late summer spawning period. A much more optimal condition is when the creek empties into a protected bay—a situation, happily common on Long Island, that we'll discuss.

There are a few things to remember when crabbing in tidal creeks. First you must learn the tides of the particular creek that you visit. At certain upstream points, because of elevation above sea level, the tide may come in for only two hours, and that may be the key time to be there. Water clarity is another factor. In times of heavy runoff, the creek may run too clear at low tide, but become murky on the rising tide. Seek out murky waters; crabs shy away from bright sunlight and clear waters where they are more vulnerable.

Of all the Atlantic Coast states, few are better blessed with protected inshore waterways than New York. This coastal zone—extending from Gateway to Shinnecock Bay—accounts, along with the lower Hudson, for the good crabbing in our state. In many ways, Long Island's south shore bays duplicate the conditions of the Chesapeake: a gradient of salinities (though certainly not as varied), plenty of shallow water with rooted aquatic vegetation, access to deeper water and appropriate wintering areas, and (modest) infusions of fresh water.

In a good year, such as 1983 is shaping up to be, crabs will be fairly well dispersed throughout the large, south shore bays. Still, there are a few things to look for to narrow your choice in big waters. First, look for a shoreline or side of an island that receives the flush of the tide. Or look for "drains" or narrow passages between islands where the tide is moving at least part of the time. Stagnant backwaters are far less desirable. Second, look for bridges. Crabs have a fetish for bridge abutments, and they seem especially attracted to them at night. Additionally, look for narrow canals or passageways—natural or man-made—that crabs may use to pass from one body of water to another. Here, you may be able to literally "put the squeeze" on the blue claws. In late season, particularly, crabs may congregate on one side or another of a strait just prior to mass migration towards wintering grounds.

But boat or no boat, there is one overridingly important feature you should seek on these bays: incoming tidal creeks.

While tidal creeks are, by themselves, extremely important to crabs and crabbers, they impact on other waters, too. This was brought home to me very clearly during the course of researching this article. I spent the better part of a weekend driving the south shore of Long Island and asking local bait and tackle dealers to mark current hotspots on detailed maps I had brought along (the results are shown in the accompanying maps). Over and over, the spots they marked coincided with the mouths of tidal creeks. Especially from Robert Moses Causeway west, the consensus was that crabs were well distributed throughout the bays. **But**...both east **and** west of the causeway, the best spots seemed to be where freshwater streams entered.

While in this brief space it would be impossible to cover all the crabbing possibilities on Long Island, certain other areas should be mentioned.

Though not covered by the maps, there is some fine crabbing on the south shore all the way west into Brooklyn. Jamaica Bay used to be famous for crabbing, and there are even certain piers and docks in Brooklyn where crabs can be caught. On the other hand, there is also some good crabbing east of Shinnecock. I've often heard of nice sized blue claws being taken from Mecox Bay, and a certain little tidal pond in Montauk produces surprisingly good crabbing, although the tip of the South Fork, east of Mecox, is generally poor.

There are, however, several tidal creeks feeding into the Peconics, and there is some very good crabbing according to tackle dealers on the East End. Inquire about these spots in the bait shops in Hampton Bays, Southampton, or Riverhead. The north shore of Long Island has some crabbing, but it does not anywhere near compare to the south shore. If you crab the north shore, look for the same conditions mentioned earlier in this article.

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SMALL BOAT TUNA

by Pete Barrett

A look at the boats and equipment for action with tuna.

"Fish on!" is a cry that will be heard more frequently this season on the many mid-sized boats heading offshore to do battle with marlin, yellowfin, longfins and hefty big-eye tuna. The latest models of the 23 to 29 foot size center console and cuddy cabin boats are safe, seaworthy and roomy, with extra advantages of large fuel capacities, speed and low cost operation.

Some folks may look at you like you have a screw loose when you suggest a run to the canyon, but rest assured that if the proper equipment is on your boat, the weather is fishable and you have the knowledge of the fuel you burn, you can easily make repeated canyon or deep-water runs for the glamorous offshore species usually thought of as only within reach of the big boys on the huge sport fishing boats.

The first consideration for planning a canyon run is to know exactly how much fuel your boat will consume each hour it runs. Fuel consumption should be checked on each trip, whether a run for blues or for fluke, then divide the total fuel needed to fill the boat by the number of hours of running time on that tank of gas. I check my boat every time it's filled and with over 300 hours of operation each year my fuel consumption is always in the range of 12.5 gallons per hour. The boat, for comparison purposes, is a 25 Mako with twin Mercry 150 outboards.

Since my boat holds 200 gallons in the factory installed, below deck tanks, I know that I can run and fish for 16 hours before I would run out of fuel. Actually, on the several canyon runs made last year, the average fuel consumed on each trip came out to be 10 gallons per hour, an average of the running fuel consumption and the

trolling fuel consumption. I usually run and fish for a total of 15 hours, leaving me with a reserve fuel supply of about 50 gallons.

It should be obvious that with a 120 gallon fuel tank you would run out of fuel in 12 hours of fishing. You can carry extra fuel in two ways. Use commercial outboard tanks of 12, 18 or 24 gallon capacity and store them either on deck, in a large hatch, or inside the console. I would suggest using these tanks to get you back to port so you can put them out on the deck, connect the hoses and then start up the engines. Based on my fuel rate, the 27 gallon tank I keep under the console would allow me to run for about four hours.

You can also store fuel, **above decks only**, in large chemical tanks available at some tackle shops or from chemical supply companies. They are made to carry acids and other corrosive liquids so they will hold up to gasoline. Transfer the fuel to the main tanks by shutting down all power and use a pump like the Handy Boy type used by farmers to pump gas from storage tanks into tractors. Once empty, fill the tanks with sea water so there is no danger of fumes remaining in the storage tanks. Done in this manner, the transfer of fuel is as safe as doing it at a dockside pump. Do NOT store the fuel below decks.

Tackle doesn't have to be real fancy, although lever drag reels like the Penn Internationals are the best buy available. Other reels like the Daiwa Sealine and Penn Senators are able to hold most fish you will meet. Rods should be of the IGFA style with gimbal butts and roller or high frame Fuji guides.

The line can be of either dacron braid or monofilament, and most anglers find they can beat the fish on 50 pound test tackle. The best choice is 80 pound for big fish like big-eyes and larger yellowfins, but marlin and the small yellowfin and longfin albacore will be taken easily on 50s.

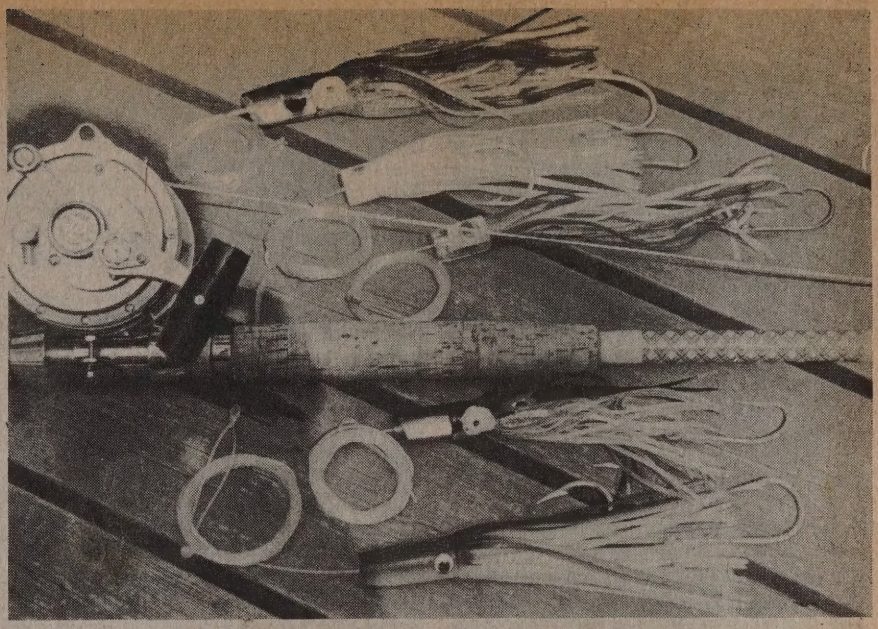
Lures are available in a wide range of sizes, actions and colors. The famous green machines or virtually any green or greenish-yellow lure is popular, but other colors take fish, too. An orange Mold Craft Soft Head took a 314 pound big-eye for us last year, a pink Spider Ahi did in a 284 big-eye and a blue Hawaiian lure nailed another big-eye of 305 pounds.

Darker colors often work best in low light, while bright colors work better on bright days. Sometimes it's a mix of colors that do it.

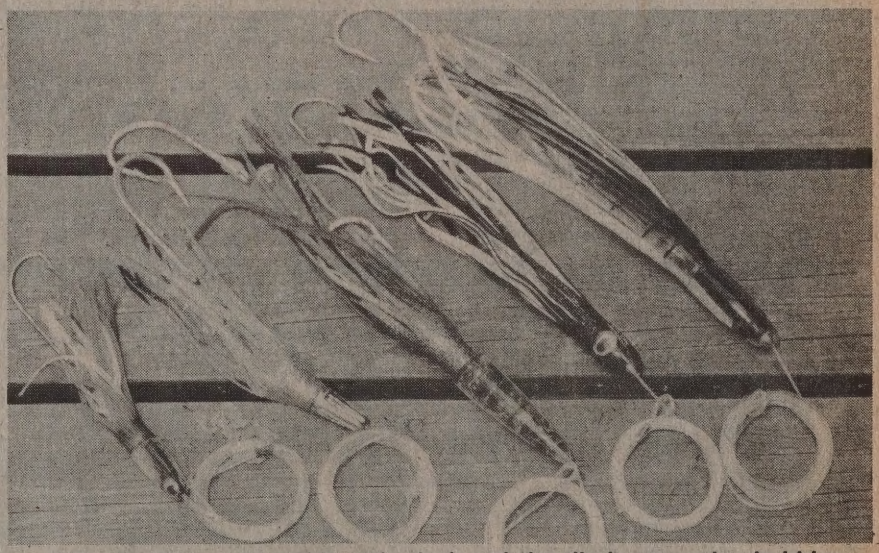
The most consistent lures are the bubblers that stream long white water plumes behind them. The Jets, Hookers, flat-faced Schneiders, Yaps, Sevenstrand Clones and many others all work well.

Extra equipment would include a flying gaff, six inch straight gaff on a six foot handle, four inch straight gaff on a six foot handle, shoulder harness, belly gimbals, tail ropes to help lift big fish into the boat, and

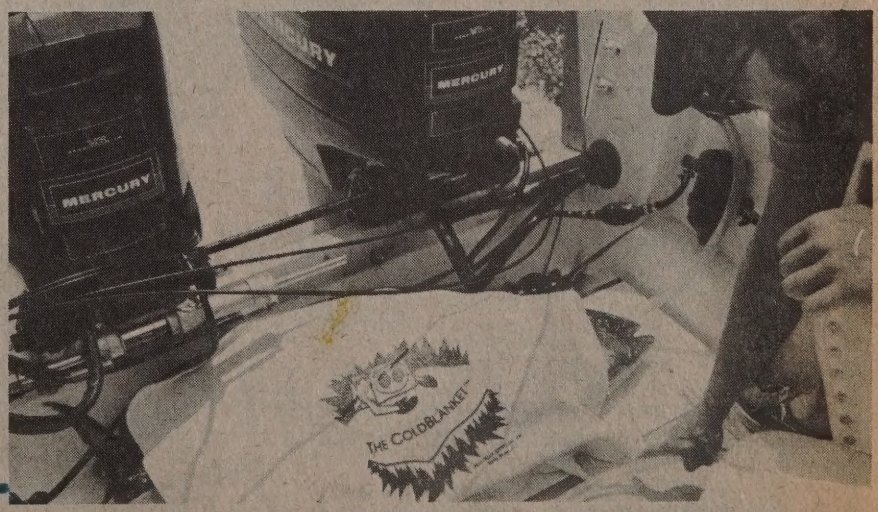
(Continued on next page.)



Author prefers two styles of lures. These flat-faced lures stream long plumes of bubbles. Top to bottom are: Hawaiian, Mold Craft Hooker, Schneider All Eye, Hawaiian and Mold Craft Soft Head.



Lightweight lures that slide and splash and also dig in streaming bubbles are second favorite. Left to right are Boone Striker, Spider Ahi, Sevenstrand Psychobead, Schneider bullet head and Sevenstrand Psychoclone.



Fifty pound yellowfin doesn't fit into fish box, so a blanket kept wet preserves fish until you get to the dock. This is a foam blanket sold by Mainstay Designs in Toms River, N.J.

blankets to cover the fish and keep them cool and moist.

The strategy is usually to work the edges of dropoffs and slopes from the shallows to the deep. Most longfins will be taken on the "flats" or the high ground near the canyon, while yellowfin in the small to medium size will be found frequently in 25 to 35 fathoms. The larger yellowfins and most big-eyes will be taken in the deep waters of 50 to 100 fathoms. We've taken big-eyes at the chicken canyon, and some albacore in the deep, but usually the pattern is as mentioned above.

Small boats don't have the weight of larger boats and are more responsive to effects of water. Large swells cause small boats to dramatically slow down and speed up as the swell passes beneath the boat. Heavy chop can cause the lures to fly out of the water at virtually every trolling speed you try; so the choice of lures and the trolling pattern can be critical to a good catch of fish or going fishless.

I've found that lighter lures, rather than the heavyweight jets are better on my boat. The lighter lures don't dig in hard on the swell and they leap and fly as the boat speeds up. Favorite lures are the Mold Draft Hookers, the Spider Ahi, Sevenstrand Psychoboards, flat-faced Hawaiians and the Boone Strikers. I only use the heavy lures on very rough days, and if it's too rough to fish the light lures, it's usually too rough for my boat!

The Spider Ahis are run in a pair in the first wake, Psychobeads on the riggers and Soft Head Hookers on the third wake and one Hooker dropped back, far down the center. This distant lure often catches the big-eyes. Albacore often hit the in-close flat lines, while yellowfins and some big-eyes will hit the riggers on the second wake and the third wake, Hookers.

For my boat, the straight running lures work best. All the lures in my pattern are of similar weight, and while some, like the Hookers will dig in, the others also splash on the surface as well as digging in. They all stream long jets of bubbles—15 to 25 feet if they are working right.

Your boat may not work well with the lures on my pattern, so you should experiment and try several lures styles, sizes and actions until you get a set that works well for you. If you make changes in the lures, do so one at a time so you can check the lure to see how it performs and adjust it before you try changing another lure. It usually takes only one tuna trip to get a good set of lures picked out.

Avoid lures that dig in too far and then fly clear of the water. The ideal lure position is on the face of the wake, yet you may find a "leaper" can be made to work right by placing it on the crest or just behind the wake.

Canyon tuna action can be terrific sport and lots of fun. Some of my most memorable fishing days are those that were spent at the canyons trolling in the deep blue waters. Small boats can do it—just be sure of your gas consumption and leave yourself at least a ten percent safety margin in your planned hours of fishing to allow some reserve fuel.

Keep an eye on the weather. Remember that even the big boats get beat up in a bad sea, but the little boats often just bob like a cork running remarkably easy in choppy seas. Go slow, take your time and you'll run at least as fast as the big guys. On one recent canyon trip where we had to beat it home in NW wind and five foot seas, I averaged 16 knots of speed, while many larger boats were able to run at only 12 knots or less. The main difference is a matter of comfort. The big boats went slower and everyone not running the boat slept on the way back. On my boat, we all grinned and took our share of spray as it came from the bow quarter. Safe—yes were were! Comfortable—hell, no!

Look for stable, high pressure weather systems for good canyon weather and check your VHF radio for better forecasts on canyon fishing conditions. The new and enlarged forecasts are better than ever in predicting the offshore seas and changing weather fronts.

See you out there! Good luck and don't forget to check your fuel.

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East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

A combination of big tuna, lots of cod and piles of porgies appear to be, along with heaps of Block Island bluefish, the name of the game.

MONTAUK

From Captain Jack Passie of the charter boat **Windy** we hear of Wednesday's trip for Montauk angler Tony Respoli and his 497 lb. giant tuna. Thursday's charter had 5 giant tuna runoffs, but no fish boated. On Sunday's trip the rapidly cooling water put the tuna off their feed, but the skipper bailed out the day with 47 blues trolled on umbrellas.

A call from Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** told of Friday's high hook of 18 cod for Sweetwater, NJ angler Don Destefano. The pool went to Pete Biella of Levittown with a 38 lber. The skipper classified the cod action as very good. The night bluefishing off Block continues to be great with big hungry choppers every night. The fluking at the Rips and south side could only be classified as fair this week, fish have been of decent size. The porgy action locally has been up and down. Super-duper porgy catches were made on the Nomans Land trip. Please note that due to the excellent catches that were made and very strong response from the public, these trips will now run every Thursday and Sunday sailing at 3AM. The porgies were found to be big and plentiful and there were substantial by-catches of sea bass and blacks mixed in.

From the charter boat **Joy Sea** we learn of Tuesday's charter for he Bill Carr party of Queens which took a 415 lb. dusky and a 70 lb. mako along with three browns, all 40 miles south of the Lighthouse.

We hear from Capt. Fred Byrd of the **Flying Cloud** that he and **Little Bear** had fair to excellent porgy fishing during the week with fares getting anywhere from a half to full buckets during most of the weekdays. High hook for the week on the **Flying Cloud** was 103 porgies. Catches ranged from 50 to 80 fish a man in the high hook categories. Sunday's high hook was 97 fish. Some days a fluke or a bluefish will win the pool. Medium to jumbo porgies are being caught around the Point or at Gardiner's.

Aboard the charter boat **Montauk**, Captain Mike told of a variety of offshore game fish this week. Many school tuna were taken this week to 179 lbs. and a few longfin tuna and yellowfin tuna were mixed in as well. This was all on big plastics. A 179 lb. hammerhead shark was taken during the week, as was a 100 lb. mako and a

Billy, Bill, Laura and Silvio with four stripers from 34 to 39 lbs. taken on trolled Danny plugs at Montauk aboard the charter boat "Windy."

Mike Rappert with a 35 lb. pollock, Owen O'Connor with a 34 lb. hake and Eddie Lagrua with a 41 lb. cod, all taken at Coxes Ledge aboard the "Viking Star."

From The Fisherman's Library

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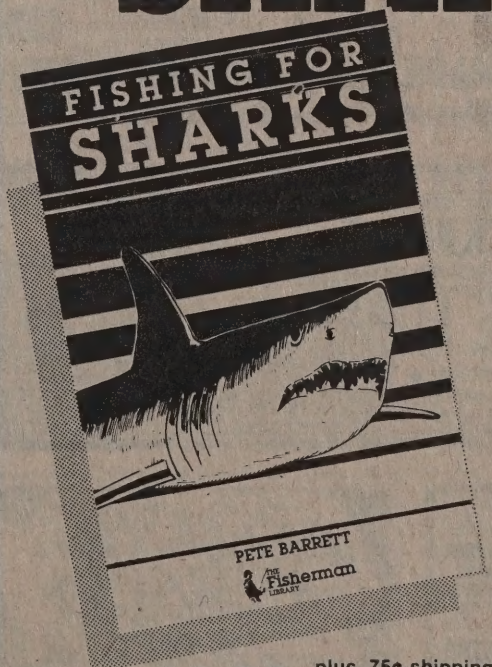

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Dave Crocco and friends with 32 weaks taken on Bait Tails at Montauk aboard Captain John DeMaio's charter boat "Vivienne."

289 lb. blue shark. As the water has cooled a bit, the sharking should improve greatly. There has been lots of bait in the water.

The word from Capt. Frank Mundus of the charter boat **Cricket II** is that during the week, one of his parties hooked and landed a dusky going over 600 lbs. It took five hours and all hands on board to reel this monster in. On another trip to the Canyon, a 225 lb. bigeye tuna was hooked and landed on 50 lb. test along with 5 longfin albacore.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** continued excellent porgy fishing. "Consistent" is the word Capt. Bud applies to his daily catches of porgies where customers can and do fill 1-2, 5-gallon buckets. Concentrating on 1¼ to 2¼ lb. porgies along with sea bass and flounder makes this possible.

From the charter boat **Ebb Tide**, we hear more, though without full details, of excellent fishing this past week for school tuna to 150 lbs. and giants.

Capt. Jerry McGrath of the charter boat **Nostalgia II** fished a party headed by Mike Palumbo on Sunday. Working the south side, the group put away 18 fluke to 3 pounds and a trio of nice sea bass. Prior to the storm, Jerry fished a day at Block Island and wrapped over 80 blues in the 4-5 pound class and 5 weaks up to 12 pounds on diamond jigs.

From **Gone Fishing Marina**, Maureen Senefelder saw the Marina's first annual fluke tourney postponed from Saturday to Sunday due to the weather. Despite Sunday's wind, the affair was still labelled a great success. First place which was worth $270. plus a trophy went to Hugh Herbert with a 8.11 pound doormat. Marty Krauss took 2nd Place and $162. with 6.13 pound fluke while Damon Osgood nailed down third with a 4¾ pounder worth $108. Mike Joos was the Junior Division winner with a 2.13 pounder. He walked away

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Joe Longo of East Setauket and the trophy striper he decked aboard Captain Bob Rocchetta's charter boat, "Rainbow II." Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina in Montauk.

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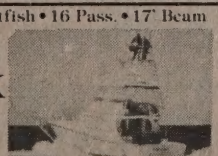

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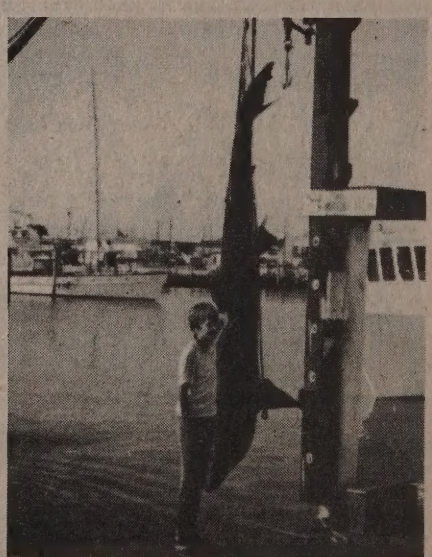

Eleven-year-old Jim Damiecki of Sag Harbor stands alongside the 299 lb. blue shark he landed at Montauk. The big blue was weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

with a Garcia rod and reel outfit.

Capt. Joe McBride of the M.C.A. charter boat **My Mate** said that the storm put most fishing on hold for a couple of days. On Sunday, the boats that ran offshore found tuna widely dispersed as a result of the storm which significantly dropped ocean water temperatures. Joe did know that there was some action at Block with giant tuna on Sunday and there are lots of blues along with a few weakfish and bonito down along the south side of Montauk. Joe also asked us to inform his customers that due to a cancellation, he now has an open date for next Sunday, August 21. See his ad for further info.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** bemoaned the northeast storm which hurt the good yellowtail and true albacore fishing of early in the week. Sunday was salvaged somewhat by most skippers who chose to work the south side beaches for blues and a few weaks. Prior to the storm, Phil found 35 weaks and a mess of blues at Block Island for Leon Jones and friends. Fishing closer to port at the Point, the skipper filled the box with small blues and a few weakfish for a group headed by Bob Hall on Wednesday.

SOUTH FORK

Speaking from **Noyac Marina**, Helen Jacobson said that fishing for weaks and porgies remained good in Noyac Bay right up until the northeaster. Best porgy action was at buoy 16 & 17 while the best weakfish action was located near the Monastery. Things were still pretty much churned up through Sunday. Also, Helen asked that we relay word to her customers that the marina will be

closed for one day only on Sunday, August 28 due to a family wedding.

Thom Speckenbach at **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton** labelled the weekend a loss although prior to the storm, he knew of good porgy action in Noyac Bay and some good blowfish scores made at Jessup's. Noyac Bay, particularly the area south of buoy 16 had also been producing some good catches of small weaks.

From the **Shinnecock** charter boat **Sea Mist** we learn from Captain Fred that Sunday's charter for the Gremmo party bagged a 401 lb. tiger shark and a 200 lb. tiger shark along with several browns. Trips during the week found brown shark and lots of bluefish in 100 to 105 feet of water due south of the inlet.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Fluke fishing surged in both Moriches and Great South Bays this week while offshore fishing became virtually impossible due to the northeaster which raked the Island late last week. Rough seas kept boats inshore through Sunday and the storm, in all likelihood, also signalled a death blow to that fine marlin action of the last two weeks as offshore water temperatures took a dive.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Excellent fluking all week long was the word from Jim Greene at **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**. Among the more impressive scores made in recent days were Mike and Rocky Mollica who combined to put away 39 fluke up to 4½ pounds near buoy 41.

Matt and John Viol and Bernie Appleman with 29 fluke up to 4 lbs. taken east of buoy 42 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

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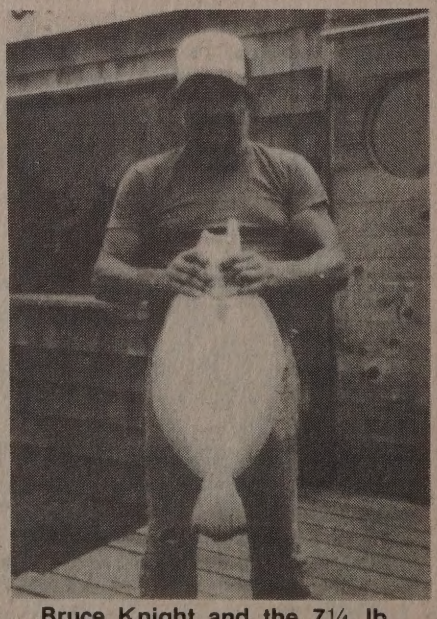

Bruce Knight and the 7¼ lb. fluke he landed in the west cut of Moriches Inlet. It was one of 15 taken while fishing out of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station.

John Nepson and Jerry Masterson aboard their Cousins Two racked up catches between 30 and 50 keeper fluke on several occasions this week. Some nice fluke were in evidence as well as demonstrated by the 7½ pounder which topped off the catch of a dozen fish made by Lou Benbou and Gitare Lbuthia. Some big bluefish were camped at the Elbow inside the Inlet on Thursday as George Pesce and Jim Grear found when they drifted cut bunker through the area. They wound up putting 5 slammers from 12 to 15 pounds in the box and rounded off the day with a good catch of fluke.

Over at **Silly Lilly Fishing Station**, Gary Grunseich labelled the fluking great since Monday with 95% of the fish keepers. Gary figured that boats were averaging anywhere from 15-30 fluke apiece with some of the fish going to 4 pounds. Both incoming and outgoing tide produced fish between buoys 39 through 42, at the Elbow and in the new cut. Sandeels, spearing and squid all accounted for good action. On Saturday, Phil Sztorc put away 26 fluke to 3 pounds by himself. Gary added that there are loads of snappers around.

Jim DeVita over at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** offered a number of fine fluke scores as evidence of the excellent fluking that took place this past week and weekend. On Thursday, Rich Gagne, Sr. & Jr. bagged 18 nice fish at Haven's Point. On Saturday, Nelson Gonzalez, Prince Jones and Eli Pepper took 28 fluke. On Sunday, Dave Roys needed only an hour and a half to tally 22 fluke at Haven's Point. Same day, Matt and John Viol and Diane Cinquegrani loaded up with 54 keepers. They were followed in by Joe Sander, Jr. & Sr. who combined for 37 fluke. Bill Wuestefled had the biggest fluke of the weekend with a 6¼ pounder. Spearing and sandeels were preferred by most of those making big scores and bucktail jigs also added to the catches according to Jim.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** noted the surge in fluke action in Great South Bay this week and added that the good fishing was spread over a wide area. He knew that some of the local clammer have been picking away at 1-3 pound weakfish on the Middle Grounds and also behind the dredge boats working off of West Sayville. Plenty of snappers and crabs at local docks which fits in nicely with the scheduling of the Patchogue Snapper Derby for Sunday, August 21st, between 1 & 3 PM. The Patchogue Fishing Club will be supplying the bait and the bodies and any youngster between 5 & 17 years of age (contest will be broken into 3 age groups) may pick up registration

Dave Hart, Ed, Rick and Scott Horvath with 32 fluke taken on sand eel and squid combos near buoy 42 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

forms at J & J Tackle for a minimal $1. entry fee. The site of the affair will be the South Ocean Avenue Dock.

Over at **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville**, Vinny spoke of good fluking all week long with a lot of nice fish in the 2-2½ pound range being taken between buoys 17 and 29. On Sunday, Lee Musso worked just a mile and a half out just in front of the station and returned with a mess of fluke including a trio of fish in the 2½ pound range. Crabbing has been good locally but only on the top of the flood and the first of the outgoing. Snapper fishing in the area, according to Vinny, has been great.

From **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Dave Canale said that things were generally quiet as a result of the weather but he did want to emphasize that it was a good week for fluke anywhere from Ocean Beach down to the inlet. Ernie Mansley checked in a fluke just a shade under 6 pounds on Sunday. Small blues are again at the inlet in good numbers and snapper fishing has been good locally. Crabbing in the area has been off.

Mike Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** told of some good fluke scores made prior to the storm in West Channel, near the lighthouse and at the inlet. Fishing was also ver good again on Sunday. Small blues were trolled and jigged at the Inlet over the weekend and the offshore scene was reduced to zero as a result of the weather.

Plenty of small blues all week in the vicinity of the Sore Thumb according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. Both jiggers and umbrella rig trollers taking these fish. Some big weakfish being livelined on snappers and blackfish in the pocket east of the Sore Thumb. It was a good week for fluke with Carl recommending boatmen work the bar which

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parallels Oak Beach on the north side of the Inlet. It was good bluefish action on the Patchogue Grounds before the storm with some of the best action being found at night. Crabbing and snapper fishing from local docks has been good although the best cra bbing seems to be located around the abuntments of the Captree Bridge during the nighttime hours. Snappers are finally getting to be decent size. Offshore action on the weekend was non-existent but Carl did go back to during the week when Jack Dooley put a 225 pound bigeye aboard the Fay Mar at the canyon. There were also reports of yellow and bluefin tuna cavorting in the area of the Compass Rose.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** who labelled the fluke fishing excellent from Tuesday through Thursday with each day seeing an average of 300 fluke come over the rail. In the wake of the storm, Sunday was good again with about 200 fluke taken. Neil has been working West Island, The Lighthouse and Snake Hill Channel and says that the majority of the fish are good size with plenty of 2-2½ pounder being taken. Fish have been caught through both tides but the best action has been on the last of the Flood and the first of the Ebb. The current leader in the boats "Free Fishing For Life" contest is Rich Luczek with an 8 pound doormat.

Captree skippers were overjoyed by the current fluke situation which is as

Linda Panciarello and Captain John Bilitsky of the Captree charter boat "Sea Ranger" with Linda's potential IGFA record 5.5 lb. sea bass taken on an ocean wreck south of Fire Island Inlet.

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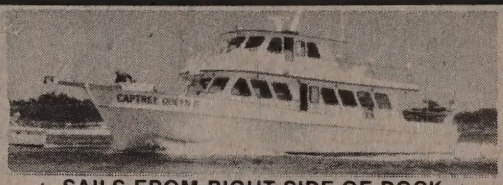

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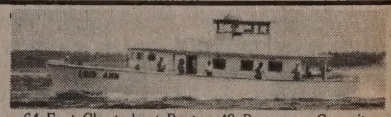

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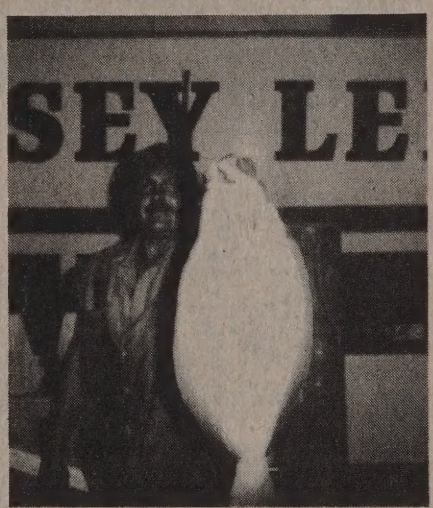
good as its been all year long. Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** spoke of very good fluking all week and even on Friday and Saturday despite the weather. Sunday was a real good day with over 300 keepers taken including many nice fish in the 2-3 pound range. Charlie feels that the good fishing has been created by a combination of fish already in the bay moving off the flats and a new body of fish moving through the inlet. He found good fishing from the lighthouse through the South Beach area and at the Inlet. On Wednesday, Charlie's daughter Laurie and her girl-friend Kelly teamed up to put away 27 keepers. Of the bluefishing the skipper rated that action good as well and again fares got in plenty of action on Friday and Saturday despite some very rough conditions. Working the Patchogue area, Charlie has been encountering fish of widely mixed sizes. On Saturday night, for example, the fishing started with slammers in the 12-14 pound range while fares finished up the night with 3-4 pound blues.

Capt. Jim Gillen of the open boat **Capt. Gillen** spoke of lots of nice fluke taken this week with Sunday an especially good day. Most of Sunday's good fishing occurred on the last of the Ebb and the first of the flood with killie and fluke belly combos getting the most attention. The skipper has been working Snake Hill Channel, the east side of the bridge and down to buoy 20 in the inlet.



This 8 lb. doormat, taken aboard the Bay Shore open boat, "Casey Lee," makes Richard Luczak the current leader in the boat's "Free Fishing for Life Contest."

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree** open boat **Captree Queen II** said that bluefishing continued excellent with most of the activity centered around the Patchogue grounds. Most fish still fall into the 7-15 pound size range with the average size of the fish noticeably larger this past week. All the nighttime action has been confined to bait and chum. The skipper noted a sharp upturn in the fluke action this past week with Sunday topping off the action. Despite poor conditions on the weekend, fares averaged 4-8 keepers a man with the best action found west of the R.M. Bridge. Gordon was hopeful that the good week of fishing may signal the start of a good late summer run.

Capt. Ed Laske of the **Captree** charter boat **Dixie** put the Ron Donner party on to some excellent fluking at the Inlet on Saturday. Fish ranged to 5 pounds with virtually no shorts among the catch. Live killies and belly strips did most of the damage. On Sunday, a group from Nissen Foods did a good job on 4-6 pound blues using diamond jigs. The site of the action was about 3 miles south of Cherry Grove.

Capt. Dennis Frederick of the charter boat **Lois Ann** fished a group from Ronko Tavern on Saturday and found good fluking on both tides between buoy 16 and the Bridge. On Sunday Joseph Fierradante led a group of upstaters for a day of bluefishing. They returned home with over 40 blues in the 4-6 pound range taken south of Cherry Grove.

Capt. George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** said that bluefish action on the Patchogue Grounds has been solid night after night as well as most days although there have been a few days he has had to go looking. Sunday's daytime trip however resulted in excellent fishing for choppers that range anywhere from 5 to 15 pounds. With the drop of water temperature resulting from last week's northeaster, the skipper feels the daytime action, too, should settle down into a solid pattern and offered

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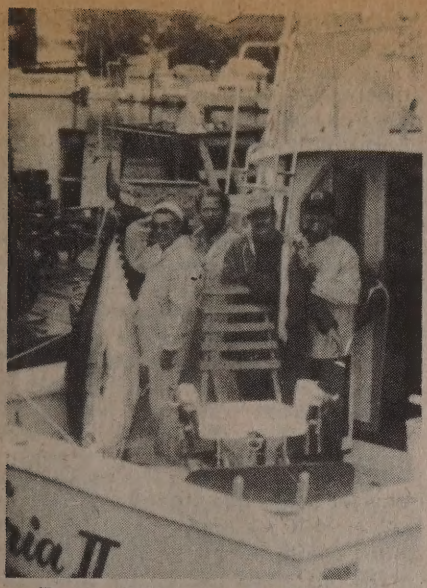

Frank DiMattie, Dennis Billman, Joe Capra and Andy Stone made up the crew aboard Fred Ciliotta's, Maria II, on a recent Hudson Canyon trip. Running out of Fire Island Inlet, the group put away three bigeyes from 196 to 237 lbs. and a 150 lb. mako. Subscriber photo.

Sunday as evidence.

Over in **Babylon**, Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop** said that the offshore scene was a lost cause due to the storm. He had a number of reports of very good fluking at the inlet on Sunday afternoon as well as plenty of action with small blues for jiggers at the inlet. Big bluefish up into the teens were being caught in good numbers up on the Patchogue Grounds just prior to the storm but no word since then. The Babylon Tuna Club held their fluke derby on Saturday. Billy Spraul, Jr. led all comers with a 3½ pound flattie. Good snapper fishing and crabbing from th Babylon Town Dock and youngsters 15 and under should note that Augie's has been running a daily snapper contest. Stop in to the shop for more details.

Capt. Jack Stoddard of the **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** was another skipper to note the much improved fluke picture. Jack said that not only more but bigger fish were found this week from just west of the R.M. Bridge down to the inlet. Killie and squid combos have been working well. Sal Fagliola had a 4 pound pool winner during the week while Roseann Wilson walked off with Sunday's pool.

Capt. Ed Walsh of the Babylon Captain's Assoc. charter boat **E-Z Ed** fished Tom Culhane of the U.S. Customs Bureau and 4 friends on Saturday. They bagged 27 fluke to 4 pounds, most at the inlet on killie and squid combos. They also added some nice sea bass to their catch after the skipper made a drop on a favorite pice of wreck near the Sore Thumb.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** spoke of very good fluke

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fishing all week from the lighthouse to the inlet and in West Channel. Small blues are at the inlet in good numbers again and bigger blues were camped on the Patchogue Grounds prior to the storm. Kathy Kinzele used a 007 jig to take a mess of small blues at the inlet one day during the week. She topped her catch off with a 14 pound chopper and an 8½ pound weakfish. Live snappers have been accounting for some big weaks in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Mike knew of a few boatmen who chummed school bass under the R.M. Bridge several nights this past week. Crabbing and snapper fishing excellent from local docks and Mike reminded that offshore fishing was wiped out in recent days by the storm.

Capt. Len of the **Lindenhurst** charter boat **Fishfinder** called to report that he loaded the box with blues in the 4-7 pound range fishing in 80' of water SE of the inlet on Sunday. Dan Beeker, Frank Galbano, Larry Whiffen and Bob Duncan did the work and accounted for nearly all the fish with diamond jigs.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** reported that Al Smith had weakfish in the 7-8 pound range on white jelly worms nearly every day this past week. Blues and weaks were trolled west of the Amity Cut in the State Channel on red tubes prior to the weekend. On Sunday, Al Speare and Sue Elefenta took 8 weaks, 6 blues and 5 fluke in the vicinity of the Sore Thumb. The only offshore report to come our way due to rough seas was that of Fred Hagemeyer of the Dari Ann who ran to 110' of water and put away a 270 pound mako on Sunday. Snapper fishing is in top form at the local docks with 30-40 fish catches not uncommon among the youngsters.

Frances Buehler is proud of the 3 lb. fluke she landed aboard the open boat, "Miss Point Lookout."

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Fluking appears to be picking up again in this part of the world. Bluefishing remains fairly consistent while blue claw crabs and snappers keep the youngsters busy on the inside.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From the **Seaford** party boat **Chinco III** we hear from Captain Brian that fluking has picked up quite a bit in the area he fishes. On Tuesday Frank Parker had 10 keeper fluke. Average catches have been 6 to 10 keepers a man. Signs are very encouraging and there are very few throwbacks this week. Sunday's pool went to Jack Besgaines, Seaford, with a 5¼ fluke. Most action has been local and in the state channel, with sand eels working best, followed by spearing on both tides.

Pop's Fishing Station described the fluking this week as generally good in the Seaford area. Mr. DeFrance brought back 10 keepers Saturday and four Sunday. On the weekend, John Morgan, Joe Yengel and Al Kohler brought back mixed bags of fluke, flounder, porgies, sea bass, bccs and sand shark. Ed O'Shaughnessy and Jack Collins, Sr. and Jr. scored with 14 keeper fluke on the weekend to 3¾ lbs. BCCs remain good in the local creeks and flats. The best fluking has been from Four Corners to the second Wantagh on the east side.

Art Wright at **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** told of some nice fluke catches made this week up to 4½ lbs., with the best areas being Squaw Island and the mouth of Massapequa Cove. A few bass are being clam bellied at the 3rd Wantagh and around the black banks, while a few flounder are being taken around the Jones Beach pier areas. BCCs are a very warm item and snappers are excellent now having grown six to eight inches.

As for the boats out of **Freeport**, fares aboard the day trips on the **Capt. Al** have been enjoying very good and very consistent bluefish jigging anywhere from Jones Inlet to the channels. Sunday, mostly 2-4 lb. blues were jigged, while Monday through Sunday it would have to be said that blues ran from smalls to jumbos. The night trips were off a bit since Thursday night's trip, but prior to that they were consistent and should return that way with settled

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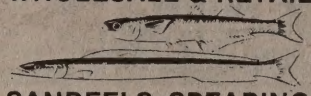
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weather.

From Capt. Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** also running day and night bluefish schedules, we learn that fish have been running anywhere from 2 to 10 lbs. during the week, jigs days and bait at night. The skipper reported very good catches day and night right through Friday, while the weekend's day trip were good also. However, Friday and Saturday night trips were off due to the weather.

From Capt. Sy of the **Bluefin Fleet** we hear that the bluefishing continues good with an occasional tuna, Spanish mackerel and bonito caught, all on diamonds. Catches have been along the beaches and SW of Jones in the 3 to 10 lb. range. Pools of the week went to Kamilo Bolobanic, Manufacturers Hanover. Sal Lombardo of Drake's Bakeries, had a 10 lber. High hook of the week was Tony Crocco with 36 blues, followed by Roger Turi with 35 blues. Another pool winner was Klaus Jorge, of Container Co. Biggest fish of the week was a 10½ lber. by Al Pehrent, of the NYPD. Forty keeper fluke was the reward for a group from Sperry on Sunday. These were taken locally and fish ran up to 3½ lbs.

Aboard the charter boat **Capt. Gary**, Tuesday's trip for Bob Melville, Bill Wedin, of Ridgewood had very good bluefishing on diamonds in 40 to 50 feet of water. These were 5 lb. class fish. Bob had an 8 lb. pool winner and was high hook with 27. Tuesday night's bluefish trip had excellent results for a group from L.I. Jewish Hospital. Mike Pomczyk was high hook with 15 choppers. Action was five miles off the beach on diamond jigs and chum. Pool winner was Jim Rowley with a 8 lber. Saturday's trip for the L.I. Church of the Deaf, saw good numbers of fluke taken, fishing done mainly in the back creeks. Lou Torrez Jr. was high hook. Sunday's trip for Metropolitan Life also had good bluefish jigging from the Jersey Highlands to Jones Inlet. Larry Adams took high hook honors with 30 bluefish while the pool wast taken by Haas Hafgren, with a 9 lber.

Aboard the charter boat **Lady J III**, the skipper relates that Monday's trip for the Briarcliff Manor Fire Dept. trolled blues south of Debs. Fish were in the 1½ lb. variety, trolling diamonds. Tuesday's trip for Bill VanWagner of B.I.E.C. enjoyed good bluefish diamond jigging off the Jersey coast, fish up to 7 lbs. On Wednesday's trip for A. Best and Co., blues were jigged south of buoy 4, Debs with good action on fish in the 4 lb. class. Thursday's charter for American Airlines saw action on 2½ to 3 lb. blues jigged off the Highlands. On Friday, a small group had a good pick off Jones and Debs in the strong NE winds. Seven men had 70 fish in the 3 lb. class. This was a charter for Xerox. Saturday's trip for the Jim Murphy group from Cornwall, NY jigged 2-3 lbers. The pool fish went to a blue that was obviously lost that weighed in at 15 lbs. Action was

from Riise/Highlands. Sunday's trip for Gull Airborn, of Hauppauge, worked the Jersey coast with jigs encountering 7 to 8 lbers.

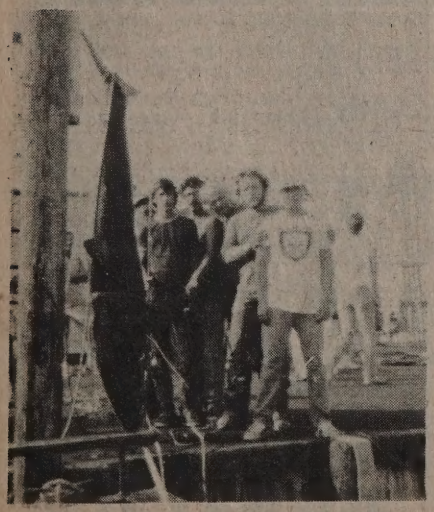
The **Capt Andy** fleet found fluking good some days and poor others. The skipper does say that he sees an improvement over last week. Flounder catches have been very good with fares getting anywhere from 20-30 flounder a man for the full day trip. Fish are going to 2 lbs. plus. and best action has been around the Short Beach CG station, Swift Creek and Fundy.

The word from Capt. Tony on the **Miss Freeport II** is that the night blue trips have been excellent. Saturday night all fish ran 3-12 lbs. and action was under one hour from the inlet. Consistent is the word said Tony, with six out of seven of the last trips having very good night bluefish scores. The daytime fluke trips have been decent, particularly on Saturday where large fluke were encountered in Jones Inlet. Fish were all keepers. Sunday, however, was tougher.

Fishing aboard the charter boat **Nan-Sea** Joe Kemn managed 4 longfin tuna from 30 to 40 lbs. on plastic fishing around the HA. Sunday's wind drove the Iguchi group back in the bay, and the day was bailed out with flounder taken around the CG station and the Meadowbrook area.

From the **Capt. Lou Fleet** we learn that fares have been picking away on fluke all week with bigger fish having moved into the inlet according to the skipper. Saturday evening's flounder catches were very good. Thirty-three good flounder was enough to earn high hook honors for John Marchak. John Smith of Freeport had 24, to 2¼ lbs. Worms are doing it in the local holes.

The **Super Spray II** has been banging away on its two trip a day fluke journeys fishing local grounds, with fair results. The night bluefish trips which return early have most



Steve Kearney and friends alongside the 350 lb. mako they landed aboard the Pt. Lookout charter boat, "Marie III."

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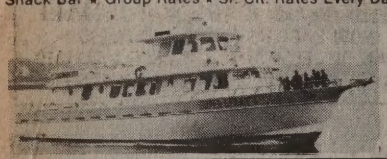

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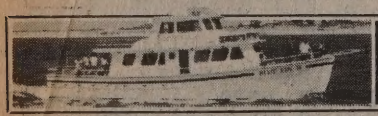

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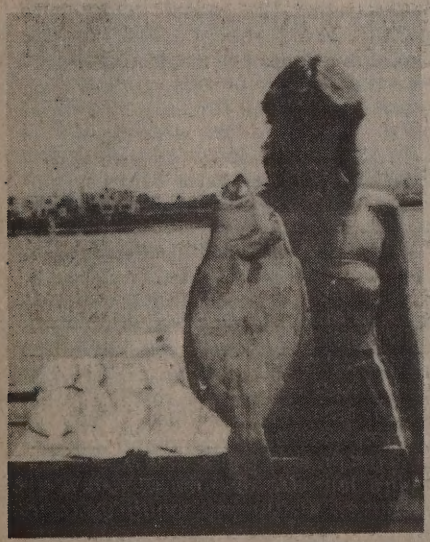
nights been catching very decently less than an hour from the dock on bait and chum.

In nearby **Point Lookout** we hear from Capt. Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** of Monday's bluefish trip which saw very good action off Atlantic Beach and Long Beach in 20-40 feet of water trolling white umbrellas on wire for 1-3 lb. fish. Wednesday's trip fishing SE of the HA saw five bluefin tuna caught to 25 lbs. and a few skipjack on red and white feathers. On Saturday, the charter worked between Playland and the channels and ended up with a fair catch of 2-4 blues on jigs. Sunday's charter slaughtered 3-5 lbs. blues due south of buoy 4, Debs on jigs. Forty-four was the score for Gerard Munzi; 38 was the catch for Joe Prinzivalli and 35 the body count for Tom Garrett.

From the **Miss Point Lookout** we learn of an improved fluke picture this week with new fish showing in the inlet, including some biggies. Monday's AM trip saw 3 youngsters with 17 keepers. Wednesday's AM trip saw good fluking with a high hook of 8 keepers. Saturday's AM trip saw a 3 lb. pool fish for Jerry Grosberg, while on the PM trip, a 3 lber won the pool for Ann Nemick. Sunday's PM trip had Amy Beneduci with a 5 lb. pool fluke. Tuesday night's bluefishing saw a total of 75 blues for Casey Specht, John Curtis and Vickie Nagy. Wednesday nights trip had Bernie Armstrong with 20 big blues while Cindy Miller and her dad put away 35 blues including the pool fish.

According to Ed at **Ed's Fishing Station** fluking has been fair to good in Reynold and middle bay all week right through Friday. Best catches were in Middle Bay, especially the flats. Fewer fish were taken on the weekend, which seems to have been the case all season. Rental skiffs averaged 6-10 keeper a man and the



Jayne Williamson of Richard Hill holds a 4 lb. fluke which topped off a 20 fish catch made in Jamaica Bay. Photo courtesy of J-Bay Boat Rental.

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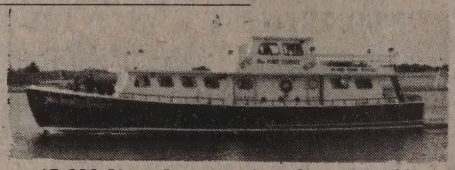

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JULY 4th - 1st BLUE FIN TUNA on the SOUTH SHORE
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keeper ratio has been excellent. Lots of snappers in the bay, while blackfish from 1-3 lbs. are taking fiddlers or clam from the Meadowbrook bridge and at the jetties. Several 4 lb. and 1 5 lb. fluke were taken out of Swift Creek this week. All around the top of the tide has been best. Flounder are still being caught in the holes off Short Beach and at the Meadowbrook. No numbesrs but good sizes. BCCs in the back, Middle Bay and in the creeks.

From **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** we also here the fluking has picked up once again for the entire length of Reynolds Channel. Snappers have become bigger and fatter and there are plenty of BCCs all over the bays and creeks. Some customers are reporting to him that the Jones Beach piers are producing flounder anywhere from 6-10 a man. Fish have been small to medium.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** the word is that the fluking has been better in the back this week in such spots as Hog Channel and Duck Point with fish in the 2-3 lb. range. Rob Oliveri and Paul Swenson had 19 keeper fluke in the 2-3 lb. range. Blues from 1-4 lb. off the Rockaways and literally all over the place. Jerry Resnick brought back a load of these small blues and said they are being taken on the troll, being cast to and on jigs. Some weaks at the Tin Can with an occasional bass mixed in on a bucktail worked on the bottom. Snappers and bccs both a good item in Reynolds while blackfish are taking clam and fiddlers at the AB bridge and Gong buoy.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** told us that after the rain fell, the fluking petered out to a low point. Good bluefishing has been had from buoy 4 south with fish running 1-5 lbs. Snappers are a good item. Some fluke are being caught on killie-squid combos from the AB bridge to the CG station. Some Spanish macks to 8 lbs. being taken on umbrellas intended for bluefish. A 4 lb. fluke was caught Monday morning minutes before we called for this report between the ABB and the CG station.

NEW YORK BIGHT

The word from **Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway** is that the fluking has improved in the bay this week mostly on live killies. Hot has been Duck Point, the high school areas and buoy 9. As have been the flats and the Tin Can. The 70 foot area has been hot for blues, all methods. Snappers have been a good item and bccs continue to improve in the Bay Park area. Flounder still being taken in the deep holes around Meadowbrook. Try worms.

In **Jamaica Bay**, **J-Bay Boat Rental** told of blues from 4-7 lbs. all over the bay on tins or Atom poppers. A regular customer brought back 30 in his rental skiff. Fluking has been good off the golf course on live killes-squid combos and on squid spearing combos. There has been a notable improvement in the porgy action with fish palm sized with anglers taking almost a full pail per boat now. Snappers are being caught on small killies or spearing off the grassy shores at the airport. BCCs being taken on the airport side of Thurston Basin. Some bass are being trolled on spinner lures with a bloodworm trailer also off the grassy shores of JKF Airport.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reported porgies in decent numbers and larger this week, now mostly hand sized off both north and south channel bridges. Worms have been best as has incoming water. Snappers have been really good said Artie, with most a hefty 7 to 8 inches long. There are loads of snappers around and they are taking spearing and small shiny tins. Fluking has been "okay" from boats drifting killie, squid or spearing. Cocktail blues are being caught from the bridges during the days and larger blues at night on bunker chunks. John Conway fishing Ruffle Bar Tuesday with live killies got himself an 8¼ lb. fluke. Juan Semidi

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	4:35	5:05	5:40	6:10	5:20	5:50	6:45	7:00	9:05	9:30	8:25	8:40	4:35	5:00	8/18
FRI.	5:35	6:00	6:40	7:00	6:20	6:45	7:35	7:45	10:00	10:15	9:15	9:35	5:25	5:50	8/19
SAT.	6:30	6:50	7:25	7:45	7:15	7:30	8:20	8:30	10:45	11:05	10:05	10:20	6:15	6:40	8/20
SUN.	7:15	7:30	8:10	8:25	8:00	8:10	9:00	9:05	11:30	11:45	10:45	11:00	7:00	7:20	8/21
MON.	7:55	8:10	8:50	9:05	8:40	8:50	9:35	9:40	—	12:05	11:25	11:35	7:45	8:00	8/22
TUES.	8:35	8:45	9:25	9:40	9:20	9:25	10:10	10:15	12:15	12:40	—	12:00	8:25	8:40	8/23
WED.	9:10	9:20	10:00	10:15	9:55	10:00	10:45	10:55	12:35	12:55	12:15	12:35	9:05	9:20	8/24
THURS.	9:45	9:55	10:35	10:50	10:30	10:35	11:20	11:30	12:50	1:00	12:45	1:10	9:40	10:00	8/25

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 49
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 8/18	6:10	7:57
FRI. 8/19	6:11	7:56
SAT. 8/20	6:12	7:54
SUN. 8/21	6:13	7:52
MON. 8/22	6:15	7:50
TUE. 8/23	6:16	7:49
WED. 8/24	6:17	7:47

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 8/18	4:56PM	1:24AM
FRI. 8/19	5:47PM	2:10AM
SAT. 8/20	6:32PM	3:02AM
SUN. 8/21	7:10PM	3:58AM
MON. 8/22	7:44PM	4:56AM
TUE. 8/23	8:12PM	5:56AM
WED. 8/24	8:38PM	6:56AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
8/8	8/15	8/23	8/2

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	1:45	**7:50**	2:00	**8:15**
Fri.	2:30	**8:35**	2:45	**9:05**
Sat.	3:20	**9:25**	3:35	**9:50**
Sun.	4:05	**10:10**	4:20	**10:35**
Mon.	4:50	**10:55**	5:05	**11:15**
Tues.	5:30	**11:35**	5:45	**11:55**
Wed.	6:10	—	6:30	**12:20**
Thurs.	6:55	**12:40**	7:20	**1:05**

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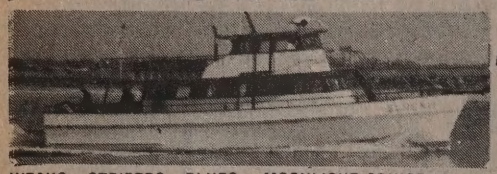

WEAKS - STRIPERS - BLUES 5 P.M., Wed. & Sat. Nites • MOONLIGHT CRUISE (2 Hrs.) Sun. Nights at 7 P.M.

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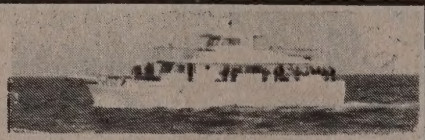

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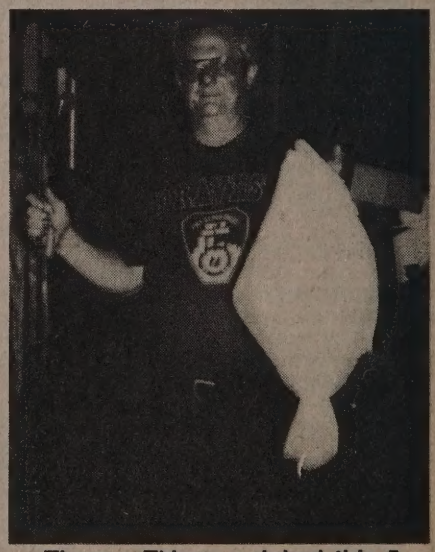

Thomas Ekbom weighed this 5 lb. fluke at Stella Maris Fishing Station. It was taken on a squid and spearing combo at Rockaway Inlet.

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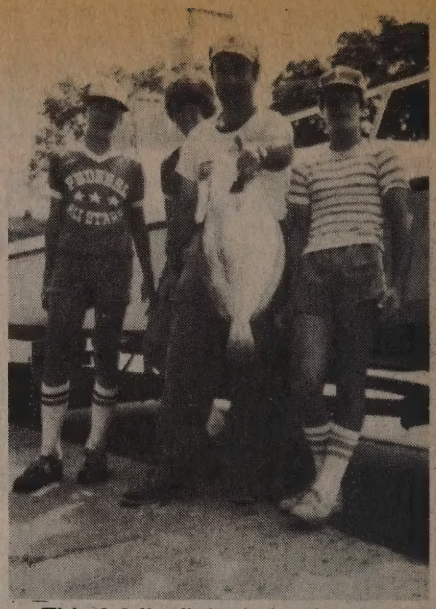

This 6.3 lb. fluke being held by Pat Cirencione was one of 11 taken by Pat, Mike, Joe and Paul in Reynold's Channel. Photo courtesy of Skippy's Bait and Tackle.

took 10 bluefish from 8-16 lbs. on chunks from the Marine Parkway bridge Sunday. Tony Guzzardo and Mario Saldana, Jr. brought in a 72 lb. dusky shark (gutted) that they took at Norton's Point while bluefishing.

Moving into **Sheepshead Bay** we learn that the **Pilot II** is having some good to very good porgy catches while anchored in a running tide at the Tin Can Grounds. THis is something that has not been happening for many years now. Flood tide has been best.

We hear from the **Flamingo III** of good bluefishing all week, though the area seems to change as the days go by. Catches are averaging 2-6 fish a man, all on diamonds. A few jumbo choppers are mixed in. There has been a showing of stripers this week, three of the days to be precise, on fish 4 to 6 lbs. Also a few weaks were taken, but nothing strong has developed. Walt says it's been an excellent bluefish season and remains holding up well. Some of the night trips have been good, but some have been tough. These trips have been on bait and chum. There have been some real giant bluefish at 17 Fathoms.

Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells of plentiful porgies with some big sea bass mixed in for the **Pilot II** at the Tin Can Grounds with porgies running from 3/4 to 1 lbs. Lots of bluefish and some bonito in many spots in the Bight with fish 2 to 16 lbs. A few weaks at the Can on Nordic Eels early AM and late PM. A few bass have been mixed in with the weaks as well. Fluking has been slow but there are plenty of snappers.

Across the waves in **Staten Island** Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** told of plenty of sand porgies and snappers anywhere from the VZ bridge to Princess Bay. Fluking has been fair at the Berger Av. storm sewers, Annan-

dale Beach and Princess Bay, while 2-4 lb. blues are being caught off Great Kills Park Beach and Annandale Beach on chunks. For weakfish, try buoy 14 in Princess Bay Channel on either chunks or live bunker.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

Very little happened along much of the north shore on Friday and Saturday as a result of the storm and Saturday's northerly winds. The blow apparently pumped some life into the Eaton's Neck Triangle where boatmen enjoyed blitz-like action with blues. A few weaks and bass were mixed in as well.

WESTERN SOUND

From **Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Island** came word of big blues in the 10 to 13 lb. class being taken on cut bunker and mackerel during the early morning and evening hours. Smaller blues are in Little Neck Bay also on cut bait, as well as Rebels and bucktails. Blackfishing is holding up at the CBS Tower and Harts Tower. Use fiddler crabs or clams. Porgies have been a question mark with quite a few around, but all on the small side. Fort Slocum and Gangway Rock have been the most consistent producing spots for the porgies. Rental boats have been concentrating flounder along Orchard Beach, CBS Tower and at Hart's Island.

From **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, came word of lots of small blues in the 2 to 6 lb. class being taken on outgoing water by casters using small tins, poppers or Rebels. Larger blues in Cold Spring Harbor for those drifting cut or whole bunker. Small porgies are off Center Island reef and Bayville beaches, while Desoris Pond has flounder and eels.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle in Huntington** announced "the fish are here." He said that blues are stacked up at the Eaton's Neck Triangle and have been providing super action between the OB buoy to 11B. Fish range from 2-9 lbs., are being taken on both tides and diamond jigs are being used both day and night. Some bass are mixed

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underneath the blues. Some weakfish being taken on sand worms off of Marshall Field after dark and all local bays and harbors have blues under schools of bunker. Plenty of good porgy action for fish ranging from 1/2 up to 2 lbs. on worms and clams. Smaller porgies are off Sand City along with 2 to 4 lb. weakfish. Some fluke in the 4-5 lb. class off of Eaton's, Lloyd's, Sunken Meadow and Mackamah Beaches.

The **Huntington** open boat **Ever Ready II** reported fantastic night bluefish action as well as good daytime action. The boat fished for just an hour and a half at the start of Thursday night's storm and returned with a load of blues. High hook for the abbreviated trip had 30 choppers. Saturday night saw excellent bluefishing again as well as four bass to 15 lbs. mixing in. Andy Gillespi had the 15 lber. Rudy May of the NY Yankees had 26 blues on the trip. Sunday's day trip produced very good action and Sunday night was a repeat of the previous night's hectic action. The charter boat **Packy IV** had a load of blues along with a few weaks and bass on both Wednesday and Sunday nights.

Tim Caraftis at **Caraftis Fishing Station in Port Jeff** said due to all the wind most of the fishing on Friday and Saturday was confined to the harbor where small porgies and flounder kept anglers entertained. Things calmed down enough on Sunday so that boats had plenty of blues, most in the 1½ to 3 lb. class, fishing buoy 11. Some blues to 8 lbs. are mixed with the smaller fish, as are a few weakfish. Some fluke being taken off the pink house and Flax Pond.

NORTH FORK

Liz at **Mattituck Fishing Station in Mattituck** said that Friday and Saturday were lost to the storm but Sunday turned out to be a good day. Porgies were taken east and west of the inlet, with the best action to the east off of the water tower. Fish were of mixed sizes and taken on worm and clam baits. Umbrella rig trollers did a decent job on bluefish near buoy 5 and Liz added that a few weaks around but they're scattered and usually taken incidental to something else. Fluke appear to be gone from the area.

From **Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold** Jim Dundirk spoke of a showing of fluke and weakfish at the brickyard. One boat returned to the station on Sunday with 9 weaks averaging 3-4 lbs., but up to 7 lbs. taken off of Louie's Beach on Shelter Island. Small to medium size porgies are at buoy 16, 17 and South Ferry. Word from the Orient Station was that the storm curtailed most of the Sound fishing, but prior to it there were some 2-3 lb. fluke out in front of the

(Continued on page 59.)

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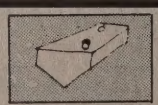

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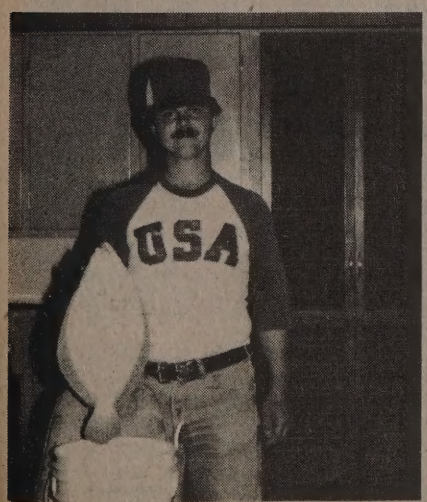

Michael Intindoli holds the 5 lb. fluke he caught in Jones Inlet. It was the largest of 12, all taken on killy and squid combos. Subscriber photo.

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AQUASPORT 17'-28'. MARINELAND—the small boat specialists. Bronx, 212-824-4000. Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

20' 1978 WELLCRAFT I/O 198 hp Chevy. Full canvas; outriggers, CB radio, DF, Port-A-Potti. Dual batt. system. Excl. running cond. In water; Babylon area. Dockage for remainder of season. Many extras. $7500. 666-4879.

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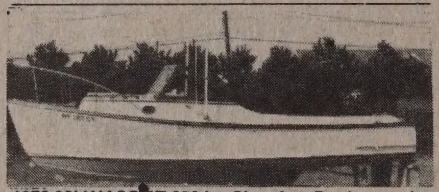

1976 26' WASQUE 250 hp Chrysler. Dual controls; Loran C w/remote, digital & Si-Tex recorders, CB & VHS radios, sfot top w/drop curtain & rear cover. Spare prop., outriggers, SW washdown. 516-668-3414.

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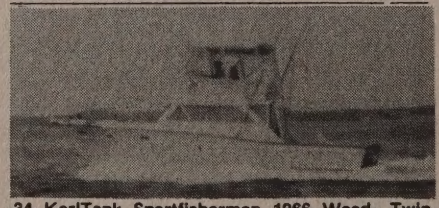

34 KariTank Sportfisherman 1966 Wood. Twin screw 225 FWC, rebuilt engine 1982. Equip. for deep sea fishing. Ready to go. Has to be seen. $18,000. After 6PM. 516-728-3802.

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THOMPSON 20, 75 hp Johnson, tandem tilt trailer, Teleflex steering. $700. 516-747-2392.

AQUASPORT 22, 2 SF 1978 175 hp Johnson. Power tilt & trim, canvas & cushions, electronics. Many extras, $8000. 516-981-7321.

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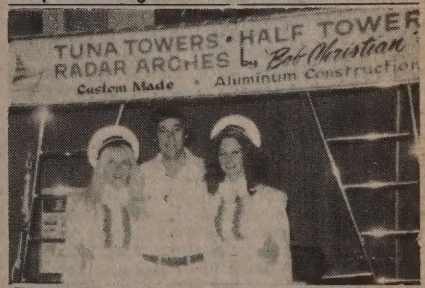

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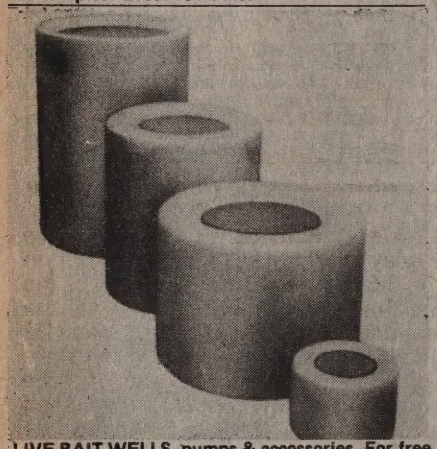

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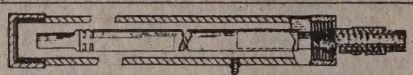

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station and some medium size porgies in Petty's Bight. Jim heard of some decent blackfish reports coming from Mulford Point and also had word of some nice blues being taken at Pigeon Rip.

Sal Loria, **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk** spoke of 1-4 lb. weaks in South Race, The Rose Grove and on the west side of Nassau Point. Porgies ranging from 1/2 to 2 lbs. are at buoy 25 and the Rose Grove.

Out in **Greenport**, John at **A.P. White Bait Shop** said that while fishing suffered a setback from the storm, the bluefish and fluke action was already bouncing back on Sunday. Best fluke action has been at the Ruins and in the Sound near Truman's Beach. Big blues being taken in Pigeon Rip and in the Race on 8 ounce Bridgeport Slab jigs. This is on the ebb tide only and a few weaks are mixed with the blues. Best porgy action is being found on the east side of Gardiner's and Crow Shoals.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

While it may have felt a lot like October this past weekend, the nor-easter which moved across the Island will likely have little effect on surf action at this point in the season. Nonetheless, it sure did feel good and at least served as a reminder that there's less time than you think to get your gear ready for fall.

From the west end of the Island, just some rumors of big blues and bass in the teens and 20s in the Fort Tilden and Jamaica Bay area. Unfortunately, no specifics available on this one.

In the Fire Island area, some spotty action with small blues at Democrat Point and the Sore Thumb with a few weaks taken at the latter spot on Thursday. Scott Pesch clicked with a 22½ lb. striper in the Robert Moses surf. It was taken on Thursday on a plug and weighed at **Augie's Tackle Shop in Babylon.**

East of here, Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue** spoke of some Friday morning action with blues in the 3-5 lb. range from just east of the Smith Point Pavillion west to the National Seashore property. Ava 17s and Hopkins both accounted for these fish. Paul looked over a catch of three stripers between 5 and 10 lbs. taken on 7½ inch RedFins by John Curiale on Friday night. John journeyed to the east side of Shinnecock Inlet for these fish.

From **Specht's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton** came word of a pair of bass in the high teens taken on eels from the Southampton Ocean beach. Thom also weighed a 14¾ lb. striper taken Saturday on a RedGill dropper near the east side jetty.

From **Johnny Kronuch's Shop** out in **Montauk** came word of only a few small blues taken at Ditch Plains Sunday and Monday mornings. The storm really put the lid on things here, although as John said it was quiet prior to the storm as well. He figured it would be a couple of days before much of the area was even fishable.

No word of any action up on the north shore and it's a pretty safe bet that little happened on the weekend as a result of the storm and its strong northeasterly winds. The Smithtown Bay and Rocky Point area had some on and off action with small blues prior to the blow but even had been a hit and miss proposition.

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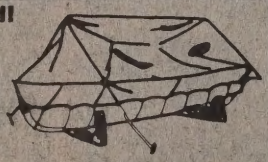

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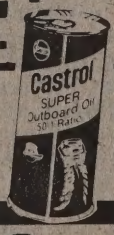

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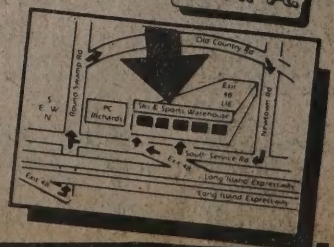

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